

## Train driver shot dead chasing man after Tube bomb blast

of a London Underground train was shot dead by a gunman after a bomb had exploded in his carriage yesterday evening's rush hour. Last night a gunman was guarding two men in hospital; one had been

injured in the explosion and the other was believed to have shot himself. Nine other passengers were also treated in hospital after the blast, which wrecked the front carriage of the train about 150 yards from West Ham station.

## Armed detectives guard two in hospital

Two men in hospital are being guarded by armed police after a bomb exploded in a London Underground train yesterday evening. The train was carrying about 100 passengers when the explosion took place. One man was killed and nine others were injured. The two men in hospital are being guarded by armed police.

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The damaged Underground train after yesterday's explosion at West Ham.

on a wider scale than before. The group said in a statement: "We now issue a solemn warning to the British public. You have given the IRA the label of terrorist, and you have allowed our comrades to suffer and die in the six counties and in your British prisons... now we will act as terrorists." The threat is believed to be connected with the plan to attack the Dublin Special Criminal Court last week by Eddie Gallagher before he was sentenced for kidnapping Dr Herrema. He urged his small group of Republican supporters to launch an immediate terror campaign in England.

Tube train was the third in a growing pattern, long feared by security authorities, of bombings against commuters. On February 13 a 20 lb bomb found in a small case at Oxford Circus Underground station was defused. On March 4 a bomb of about 10 lb exploded in an empty train near Cannon Street station, injuring eight people in a passing train. The sequence of events at West Ham station was still confused last night, but it seemed that passengers in the front compartment of the train became suspicious of a bag being carried by one of two men. It is believed that one passenger pulled the alarm

cord, thus alerting the driver, who left the train to give chase. Mr Donald Gallo, aged 41, who was filling his tank with nitric acid at a depot 100 yards from the station, suffered a broken leg as a door blown from the train landed on him. He said: "The blast was immense. When I came to I was being knocked on. I saw a little old lady trying to crawl away from the train." Mrs Nigel Blake, aged 24, whose office is 150 yards from the station, said: "The train had just pulled out of the station going towards the West End. There was a tremendous explosion. It had just gone over the railway bridge and was

about 150 yards from the station." Mrs Betty White, a switchboard operator at a local factory, said: "We heard a big bang and saw the front carriage of the train ripped apart. They were still bringing out the injured from the train some time after the explosion."

Mr Hugh Fenton, production manager of a chemical company near the station, said: "At first I thought the plant had exploded. I looked out of the window and saw a train door flying through the air. I ran outside and saw a man, his face covered with blood. He had a gun in his hand. A man went after him and two or three shots were fired. I ran for cover."

Two years ago Devco Children were visiting the Tower of London when a bomb exploded there. People detained in hospital after the blast included: Margaret Appleton, aged 21, Old Park Avenue, Balham; Mr Barry McPherson, aged 19, Kildare Road, Canning Town; Mr Andrew Bailey, aged 18, Boyce Way, Plaistow; Ada West, aged 72, Ranelagh Road, West Ham; Sharon Golden, aged 15, West Ham; Mr Donald Gallo, aged 41, Pond Road, West Ham; Cecilia Blackden, aged 19, York Cottage, Kirkby Moor, York; Peter Chalk, Chiochilla Road, Southend.

## 100 Syrian troops in Lebanon

March 15.—President Frangieh finally bowed to military and political pressure and offered to resign. He said he was not a candidate for the presidency, and that he was 65, conditional offer. Arab diplomatic sources said that at least 1,000 Syrian troops had entered the country of Lebanon. The army of the President Frangieh (PLA) is reported to be on the move, and that the President is being forced to resign. The President is being forced to resign, and that the President is being forced to resign.

former minister and a relative of the late President Chedde Helou. Other possible candidates are Mr Jean Azzi, a former minister who once ran unsuccessfully for the presidency, and Mr Elias Sarkis, the governor of the Lebanese central bank for the past eight years. The removal of Mr Frangieh was the main demand of Army leaders led by General Aziz al-Ahdab, who last Thursday declared that he should make way for a new leader. The Lebanese Army commanders threatening to storm President Frangieh's palace gave him a deadline of 6 pm to resign. Previously they had set a 2 pm deadline. An armed column of the rebel Lebanese Arab Army had advanced from southern Lebanon to within six miles of the capital.

## Sir Richard Marsh to quit as rail chairman in September

By Maurice Corbin

A police but somewhat short interview yesterday between Sir Richard Marsh, chairman of British Rail, and his former political colleague, Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, ended with the 22,330-year railways chief giving notice that he will seek reappointment. Sir Richard's five-year contract is due for renewal in September. The action came after Mr Crosland, for the Government, was unable to give Sir Richard any clear statement, about his future, as a time when an important statement on transport policy is being prepared. Later there was an official exchange of letters (see page 2) confirming Sir Richard's decision, with Mr Crosland releasing a cool reply to the

railways chairman's criticisms of what he called a "total lack of clarity of the board's objectives" and a lack of consistency in the Government. Last night Sir Richard hit out against the treatment by government of nationalised industries, board members and cited his experience with British Rail as an exercise in frustration and interference. The ideal state industry chairman, he said, would be the Archangel Gabriel. Although claiming not to be disillusioned, he now intends, after completing his appointment, to seek employment outside the public sector. He will not reenter politics. Originally appointed by a Conservative Government, Sir Richard, who was 48 on Sunday, has now stated that the Government's handling of the rail-

ways will come under the full public scrutiny. Trade union leaders are bitter over what they described as "senseless" cuts in future investment and ever-rising prices. Sir Richard explained that there had been mounting speculation over his future and it was sensible to seek clarification. The Government was planning a new policy statement, but he had not seen any consultative papers in spite of his position. If fundamental changes were made then it would be necessary to have someone new as chairman. If there were no changes, then he would not be happy to continue, anyway. Sir Richard said he had seen ministers' comments on a variety of changes in government policies with which

## Union chiefs unite to end Labour division

By Paul Rowlledge

Labour Editor Britain's top three union leaders yesterday took their political differences and issued an unprecedented public appeal for united support for Mr Wilson. They did so on the ground that "forces opposing Labour are regrouping and are now clearly preparing for an early general election." Mr Jack Jones, the Transport and General Workers' Union leader, Mr Hugh Scanton, of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and Mr David Bannett, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, called for emergency talks with ministers and Labour Party leaders immediately after the Budget to write what amounts to a new election manifesto.

The union leaders, representing practically half the nation's 10 million trade unionists, clearly fear that political uncertainty could topple Labour and "set back for a lifetime the prospects of socialism and working-class advance." The surprise move was worked out at a secret meeting in London between the three leading members of the TUC General Council yesterday. Although the authorship of the statement is not being disclosed, it is believed that it was chiefly the work of Mr Jones, general secretary of the TGWU and the Government's most ardent supporter.

He told me last night: "The degree of disunity demonstrated last week is an indication that something must be done to pull things together." He left no doubt that he was referring to the Commons revolt by MPs of the Tribune group. It, he insisted, an independent initiative and the Government had not been consulted. The union leaders had acted as the three chief officers of the principal unions affiliated to the Labour Party. A long joint statement freely disclosed the union's anxieties and charted the path towards a rewriting of the 1974 election manifesto "in the light of the exceptional economic difficulties of the present period."

It said that the forces opposing Labour were capitalising on recent divisions and splits and the dire economic position facing the country. That is plainly a reference to the left-wing revolt in the Commons over public expenditure cuts and Mrs Thatcher's efforts for rapid reduction of the unions. "Every measure will be taken, every stroke will be pulled, to secure popular support to defeat Labour by opposition," it said. "Every measure will be taken, every stroke will be pulled, to secure popular support to defeat Labour by opposition," it said.

"Trade unionists want to ensure that the gains secured for workers by the present government will not be eroded. Of course there are genuine differences of view as to how the crisis should be handled, but personal spleen does not help in resolving these differences. It certainly is not our purpose to apportion blame in an upturn in the economy. The real question is, on what basis can unity be ensured to maintain the continuance of Labour government?" Difficulties over unemployment, prices, pensions, education, housing, public transport and many other issues of

## Mr Healey rejects French blame for retreat of the franc

From Michael Hornsby in Brussels and Melvyn Westlake in London

World currency markets were thrown into disarray at first yesterday in the wake of the pre-dawn decision by the French to withdraw from the European currency block for the second time in 26 months. The French move followed several days of intense pressure on the franc accompanying the rapid drop in the external value of the pound.

Accusations that Britain was largely to blame for the pressure that finally led to the French move were firmly rebutted by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, yesterday. He denied charges that the Bank of England had deliberately "engineered" the depreciation of the pound in order to boost the trading competitiveness of British exports. This accusation was implied in a Brussels press conference given yesterday morning by M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, the French finance minister, at which he explained the reasons for the decision to withdraw from the franc.

M. Fourcade said that some countries—and he clearly meant Britain and Italy—had been indulging in "uncontrolled devaluations" undertaken principally for commercial reasons. He suggested that this was hardly in accord with Article 107 of the Rome Treaty, which stipulates that each member state "shall treat its policy with regard to rates of exchange as a matter of common concern."

Mr Healey told his EEC colleagues at their meeting in Brussels yesterday that the forces which had caused sterling to depreciate by about 5 per cent in the last one and a half weeks were the same as those which had disclosed the franc. The British Government, Mr Healey said, did not believe that it was practicable to maintain fixed rates of exchange so long as inflation rates differed widely from country to country, the market would eventually force adjustments, as had now happened in the case of the franc.

Mr Fourcade claimed that speculative pressure on the franc, and the consequent drain on France's reserves of convertible currency, had reached really damaging proportions only this month, as a direct result of sterling's decline and the flight of capital into the Deutsche mark. In the first two weeks of March, the Bank of France had spent 8,000 million francs worth of reserves in support of the French currency, of which half

was spent last Friday. M. Fourcade said this compared with the 6,000 million francs which had flowed out during the whole of January and the whole of February. The large sterling balances held round the world meant that the pound's behaviour had a disproportionate impact on other currencies, and this was a matter which needed further examination, M. Fourcade said.

On the markets there was a growing fear that the French move might be the prelude to a complete disintegration of the European currency block. Two other participants were obliged to reaffirm their intention of remaining within the European currency block, popularly known as the snake. Yet the West German Federal Bank was yesterday forced to provide an estimated 500 million marks of support for the weaker snake currencies as renewed pressure developed against them.

Currency dealers referred to a polarization of currencies into two camps. Earlier it was announced that the Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands were abandoning their own attempts to restrict currency fluctuations under separate arrangements within the wider snake block. This block now consists of only West Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark and two associate participants, Sweden and Norway.

However, in banking circles it was suggested that the industrialized world was now witnessing a long-overdue re-orientation of exchange rates. When the foreign exchanges opened yesterday the French franc promptly suffered a de facto devaluation of about 51 per cent against the mark and about 44 per cent against the dollar, but by the close of trading this had been trimmed to 31 and 21 per cent respectively. The lira fell to a record low, while the pound closed only 0.35 cent down against the dollar, at \$1.9230.

However, the Bank of England appears to have provided a further \$150m of support to prop up the pound. This brings total support in a little over two weeks to between \$900m and \$1,000m, or around 13 per cent of Britain's foreign currency reserves. Thus, the first of Britain's loans from the International Monetary Fund, received to finance the overseas trade deficit, has already been nearly exhausted. This fact would have supported Mr Healey's case in his earlier defence of the pound. Britain in the recent currency turmoil.

## Double failure for Giscard

President Giscard d'Estaing is apparently the target of criticism among discontented government ministers, because of his decision to go with last night's decision to reflate the franc. The president, who was for many years France's finance minister, is seen as failing not only in the way he conducted the election campaign but also in a field where he was regarded as an expert. It was his decision alone, and in opposition to that of his finance

minister, M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, to bring back the franc. Mr Giscard's decision to pursue a policy of personal friendship with Chancellor Schmidt of West Germany. These criticisms are believed to have been aired at today's meeting of the Gaullist party to review election results, in which the party's main rival, the Centre, has been the president's own Independent Republicans. Left gains in poll, page 5

## Full official review of Ulster economy

A wide-ranging review of Northern Ireland's economy is to be started by the Government in a few weeks, Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said. It is likely to lead to changes in Ulster's industrial base and in the amount of public money paid annually from the Exchequer. In addition, a ministerial committee is preparing a report which will lead to new security legislation, with the aim of increasing the role of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

## Mr Thorpe to learn MPs' verdict today

Mr Thorpe, leader of the Liberal Party, will learn today the result of soundings taken among the party's MPs by Mr Alan Bethel, shadow chief whip, to establish whether there is still majority support for his leadership. Page 2

## Leyland Cars hit by two strikes

A strike by 700 Leyland engineers has stopped all work on the company's new model programme and is threatening a still-secret secret sale of the company's production in the summer. A further strike by 400 toolroom workers has halted Rover and Range Rover output. Page 17

## Denial of massacres

Rhodesian troops have not massacred African villagers as has been alleged, according to a West German missionary stationed in the operational area north of Mount Darwin. "We would have heard about it," he said. Page 6

## Illinois favourite

Mr Jimmy Carter, former governor of Georgia, is now the favorite to win today's Democratic presidential primary in Illinois. His fortunes were helped by a Gallup Poll which showed he could defeat President Ford. Page 6

## West Bank clashes

Israeli security forces imposed an indefinite curfew to Ramallah, near Jerusalem, after the worst day of rioting in the occupied West Bank since Arab unrest began a week ago. Dozens of students were arrested by troops after violent clashes. Page 6

## Child crime film

The British Film Institute governors will decide today the future of a film on child crime after the police objected to a public showing. Page 2

## Leipzig walkout

The entire Bonn delegation left the Leipzig Spring Fair because East Germany refused visas to West German journalists. Page 5

## North Starfighter lost

urg, West Germany, 15.—The West German air force today lost its 17th North Starfighter. It crashed in the North Sea during a training flight. The pilot successfully ejected and was rescued by a helicopter.

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## Planning ahead

These are difficult times for firms operating in Britain. The country's economic situation is serious. Many firms have had to close down and unemployment figures are reaching new peaks. Press reports cast gloom and despondency. A Department of Industry survey has not suggested that investment in manufacturing and in the distribution and service industries will fall again this year. Things look bleak indeed. If you are in business and occupying offices in London, consider for a moment your situation when there is an upturn in the economy. The same Department of Industry survey predicts improvements by 1977, with a large increase in manufacturing investment. But 1977 is not next year! Will your firm be ready to cope with the changed situation? It doesn't give you much time to prepare. Could you expand in your present accommodation? Can you afford to go on paying rent and rates as high as those in London? So what do you do? Make a point of visiting the "Northampton comes to Town" exhibition at The London Press Centre, Shoe Lane off Fleet Street. Northampton is coming to town to provide you with information about the substantial economies that can result if you move your office to Northampton. Firms moving from Central London can save up to 80% of their rent and rates, so it's worth thinking about moving the bulk of your activities even if you keep a small headquarters office in the capital. Now is the time to consider your firm's future. A nationwide survey in January's edition of "Estates Gazette" on The Office Market 1975 showed that development activity had come to an almost complete standstill; it would not be long before there was a nationwide shortage of new office space and rents would start to move up rapidly. This gives firm warning that firms should, if they are wise, plan for the future now. There are other gains to be made by moving your office to Northampton, a town which is expanding by the mid 1980's from its present population of 150,000 to 240,000. Your staff would be free from the cost and strain of daily commuting. Private houses cost less and there is a wide range of rented homes available from the Development Corporation. A special staff recruitment system, available in new and expanding towns, operates in addition to the normal avenues of recruitment. Although Northampton is designated a new town, it is also a town with a long history. It has well established social services, education and entertainment facilities and many acres of beautiful parkland. The old and the new together, Northampton has good communications: right next to the M1 motorway, it is little more than an hour from London by road or rail. The town is rapidly developing as a centre for offices with sites for 3 million square feet of new offices, including Greyfriars House, a new prestige office, are immediately available in the town centre, and all are capable of providing the facilities and services which are essential for the new town. Northampton is also a town with a long history. It has well established social services, education and entertainment facilities and many acres of beautiful parkland. The old and the new together, Northampton has good communications: right next to the M1 motorway, it is little more than an hour from London by road or rail. The town is rapidly developing as a centre for offices with sites for 3 million square feet of new offices, including Greyfriars House, a new prestige office, are immediately available in the town centre, and all are capable of providing the facilities and services which are essential for the new town. Northampton is also a town with a long history. 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## HOME NEWS

# Government review of Ulster's future will put emphasis on economy and role of police

From Christopher Walker  
Belfast

In its first major policy statement since the collapse of the Northern Ireland Convention the Government announced yesterday that a wide-ranging review of Ulster's troubled economy would be launched in a few weeks.

It will be the first conducted to Northern Ireland since 1971. It is likely to lead to important changes in the province's industrial base and in the amount of public money paid annually in the form of a subvention from the national Exchequer.

To add to a ministerial committee investigating long-term security policy is preparing a report which will lead to legislation being introduced at Westminster in May. That will be geared to locking the importance of the role played by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Both plans were broadly outlined in a statement issued yesterday by Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. He is plainly anxious to allay the widely held fears among local politicians that indefinite direct rule will be a negative process.

Although the meetings of the

security committee, held regularly since mid-January, have been secret, it is understood that the legislation will cover the size of the RUC, its internal structure, and the future size of British troop involvement in Northern Ireland.

The number of British soldiers totals just over 14,000, but the Government hopes that can be reduced by the end of the year. No indication has yet been given of how Mr Rees plans to cope with the key question of policing republican areas where the RUC is unable to operate.

Details of the economic review will be made public later this week. It is likely to be headed by a top-level expert from outside the province.

"The basic aim," Mr Rees explained, "must be to ensure that the full potential of public and private enterprise is organized in such a way as to bring about the maximum benefit in terms of industrial activity and employment over the next few years."

The review will concentrate on ways of coping with the run-down of Ulster's two main industries, shipbuilding and textiles, which has led to a high level of unemployment. The

Government is anxious to find ways of encouraging more local light industry in contrast with the present heavy reliance on the vulnerable branches of multinational companies.

Ministers acknowledge privately that there will be no quick end to the recession and there is concern about difficulties encountered in recent drives to win more investment from the United States and high British companies.

Yesterday's statement indicated clearly that the Government will be concentrating on the role of the police and the state of the economy in the early months of its new style of direct rule. It was seen in Belfast political circles as a further attempt to convince the many sceptics that the British are not involved in a subtle process of economic withdrawal.

"I want no one to be in any doubt as to the intentions of the Government in relation to the administration of Northern Ireland," Mr Rees said. "We are determined that everything possible will be done to maintain the peace in the Ulster area and to bring about real and lasting improvements in the long term."

## Three more arrests in Herrema kidnap case

Police in the Irish Republic yesterday arrested three more people in connexion with the Herrema kidnaping.

The arrests came four days after the Special Criminal Court at Dublin sentenced five people to a total of 51 years' imprisonment for involvement in the affair.

Last night one of the three appeared in the special court. Thomas Anthony Dunne, aged 22, a builder's labourer of Clonsilla, co. Laois, faced three charges: unlawfully imprisoning Dr Herrema, attempting to obstruct by intimidation the carrying out of the executive branch of government, and maliciously setting fire to two police stations in the Irish Republic last August.

He was remanded in custody until March 23 after Det Ser-

geant Philip O'Keefe said there were fears he would not stand trial if given bail. He said police had been searching for Mr Dunne since last October, when he disappeared after being interviewed.

He was arrested yesterday in the Marino district of Dublin. The two other men arrested in Dublin yesterday are expected to appear in court today.

A total of 10 people have so far been charged in connexion with the Herrema affair: three five sentenced last week, two married couples due to appear at a separate trial next month, and Mr Dunne.

In the case that ended last week Eddie Gallagher and Marian Coyle received sentences of 20 years and 15 years respectively. Two men from co. Offaly were jailed for eight years each and another man was given a three-year suspended term.

## Women open rape victims advice centre in London

A centre offering help to women victims of rape and sexual assault was opened in London yesterday. It is being run on a voluntary basis by a group of women.

They are operating a 24-hour telephone line and woman rape victims will get sympathetic advice and a companion to accompany them to the police, doctor or court hearing.

The group said: "Whether it happened 20 years or five minutes ago, any woman can contact the centre and get immediate support."

The centre is in north London. The telephone numbers are 01-340 6913 (10 am-6 pm); and 01-340 6145 (emergency outside normal hours). The postal address is Post Office Box 42, London N6 5BU.

The group is not disclosing the location of the centre or the names of the women running it. "We are keeping a low profile because we want to hear only from women who need

help", a leading member said. Dr Judith Gilley, a north London general practitioner, one of the centre's medical advisers, said: "One needs a good deal of privacy for this type of operation. Most rape centres in the United States and women's aid organizations try to avoid giving addresses except to victims."

The leading member of the group, "Brenda", said it had charitable status and links with the police, doctors and lawyers. Women would be given free legal and medical advice and everything would be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Although the staff was entirely female, the centre had several men on call who could advise the male relatives of victims. "It can also be a very traumatic experience for husbands or boy friends", she said.

Mr Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Hemel Hempstead, who has been piloting a Bill through the House of Commons to alter the law on rape, welcomed the opening of the centre.

## Guidelines on mental patients 'fair'

By a Staff Reporter

The National Association for Mental Health (NAMH) yesterday welcomed the Government guidelines to health authorities on the management of potentially violent patients as being fair both to nurses and patients. It called on the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) to give detailed reasons why it had decided to ignore the guidance.

But the association said it agreed with Cohse that it should have been consulted in the drawing up of the guidelines, especially since its members were affected more than any other group involved. All hospital staff should be allowed to participate much more in decision-making.

The association felt the patients, rather than nurses, needed greater protection under the law. Nurses had "excessively wide" protection under section 141 of the Mental Health Act, especially in the light of the House of Lords ruling last year in the Pinner case, it said.

Section 141 said that any person acting in pursuance of his duties under the Act could not be prosecuted except by leave of the High Court. In practice that leave was difficult to obtain, the association said. The person bringing the action had to show that the nurse had acted in bad faith and without reasonable care.

### Windows damaged

Police at Luton, Bedfordshire, were seeking yesterday a man who caused £2,000 damage to stained glass windows of the town's twelfth-century parish church.

### Raid haul £544,216

Police investigating last Friday's raid at a British Airways strong-room at Heathrow airport, London, said yesterday that the value of goods stolen had reached £544,216.

## Police seek ban on shots of seven-year-old boy being questioned in cell

### Future of juvenile crime film is in doubt

By Penny Symon

The future of a controversial documentary film about the police's juvenile liaison scheme will be decided today by the governors of the British Film Institute which provided £15,000 for two young film makers, Mr Nicholas Broomfield and Miss Joan Churchill, to make the film in Blackburn, Lancashire.

They had cooperation from police involved in the scheme. It enables officers to caution seven or eight, rather than take them to court. The aim is to deliver an early shock in the hope of preventing more serious trouble later.

But the police are now trying to stop the film from being shown. The makers have asked the officers for the film from Thames Television and other distributors but so far it has been shown publicly only

at the London Film Festival last September. An attempt was made then by Chief Supt Joseph Mounsey, of the Lancashire CID, to stop it.

The scenes which are bound to cause controversy concern a seven-year-old boy said to have stolen a cowboy suit and peeped through the peephole. It is done, he says, with the cooperation of the parents to show the child that threats can be put into practice. It terrifies them to some extent and in several cases works.

Mr Broomfield said yesterday: "All the families in the film were given the opportunity to tell us if they objected to its possible showing on television and we honoured the wishes of the one or two who did." Undertakings were also given not to show the film in the Blackburn area.

The film will be shown to the cell and there would be nobody to call.

Later in the film the policeman, says that treatment would be used only as a last resort and he would not be allowed to lock the child in. But sometimes he does so for a few minutes and keeps an eye on him through the peephole.

It is done, he says, with the cooperation of the parents to show the child that threats can be put into practice. It terrifies them to some extent and in several cases works.

MPs at the House of Commons tomorrow night and Mr Robert Kilroy-Gill, Labour MP for Orkney and Shetland, has said he intends to put down questions to Mr Jenkins.

"The whole issue raises questions on whether it is appropriate for policemen, who have no training in child care or problems, to deal with children in trouble," he said. "It is one thing for policemen on the beat to give a friendly warning, but it is totally different for them to put children in a cell and to interrogate them in the dark. Chief Supt Mounsey said his objection in the film being shown publicly was that it would identify the children involved. He also said there was an understanding that it would not be shown publicly, a claim strongly denied by Mr Broomfield."

## Two killed in train and lorry collision

From Our Correspondent  
Carlisle

A train driver and a lorry driver were killed early yesterday when a London to Scotland express ran into an articulated lorry which had crashed through a bridge parapet 50ft on to the line below.

The train driver was Mr Joseph Randolph Scott, aged 56, of Broom Court, Harbury, Carlisle.

The accident happened at Dornock Bridge, near Annan, Dumfriesshire. The bridge carries the A75 Stranraer to Gairloch road over the Glasgow-Carlisle railway line.

Just after the lorry, which had crossed from Northern Ireland, crashed on to the railway line, the Euston-Stranraer boat train ploughed into the wreckage, killing the two men and pushing the wreckage before it.

Mr John Farrer, the second man, brought the train to a halt 500 yards beyond the bridge, although he was badly hurt. Mr Farrer, aged 38, of Greystone Road, Carlisle, was taken to hospital.

The 10-coach train was carrying only 22 passengers. None was hurt, but they later continued their journey. The line



The lorry driver's cab crushed beneath the engine of the express.

was blocked for most of the day. Another lorry, thought to be travelling with the one that left

## Cut-price house sale firm's appeal

By a Staff Reporter

The Homes Organisation, a cut-price conveying firm, is to seek a writ of mandamus against the stipendiary magistrate who last December convicted the organisation of unlawfully carrying out a conveyance.

Mr John Watson, chairman of the firm, said yesterday that he wished to appeal against the conviction, which was recorded at Wells Street magistrates' court, London. The firm was fined £25 for unlawfully drafting an instrument of transfer.

Mr Watson said that the magistrate refused to give the reasons for her decision, by way of case stated, which she was entitled to do for up to three months after the hearing, under the Magistrates Act, 1952. If the writ was granted, now that the three months have expired, the magistrate would be compelled to give reasons for her decision.

Moves are also being made by other cut-price conveying firms against convictions in magistrates' courts after prosecutions by the Law Society.

### Train robber released

Thomas Wisbey, aged 43, one of the great train robbers, was released on parole yesterday from Maidstone prison, Kent, after serving nearly 12 years of a 30-year sentence.

## Mr Thorpe to learn views of his MPs today

Mr Alan Beith, acting chief whip of the Liberals, who is trying to establish whether Mr Thorpe still has majority support among the party's MPs, is expected to complete his sounding-out today.

He said last night that he would then give Mr Thorpe his general view of the feelings of the party rather than a list of those for and against. There was unlikely to be a special party meeting on the issue because of the weekly meeting of Liberal MPs tomorrow.

Mr Cyril Smith, the Liberal chief whip, who is recovering from a gall bladder infection, was visited by Mr Beith yesterday. Mr Smith said afterwards: "I was able to give him considerable background information on the leadership issue about which he was not aware. I told Mr Beith that the sooner the leadership issue is settled the better it will be for the Liberal Party."

Mr Thorpe said yesterday that he would defend any libel proceedings brought against him

by Mr Norman Scott, the former model who claims to have had a sexual relationship with him. He said: "I have read reports that Mr Scott proposes to sue me in connexion with my statement to *The Sunday Times*. I have nothing to add to, or subtract from, that statement. It therefore follows that if Mr Scott takes proceedings against me, I will defend and justify."

Mr Scott, aged 36, first made his allegation under the privileged conditions of a court hearing last month at Barnstaple, in Mr Thorpe's constituency. This meant that Mr Thorpe could take no legal action. But at the weekend he categorically denied six allegations he said had been made by Mr Scott, who responded by threatening to sue Mr Thorpe for denying the alleged relationship.

Mr Scott was reported to be seeing his solicitor yesterday. The chairman of the Nottinghamshire Liberal Association, Mr Stuart Reddish, yesterday announced his resignation as prospective parliamentary candidate for Beeston, Nottingham-

shire, because of "the wrangling over the party leadership." He said he was dissociating himself from the party nationally and was going back to the grass roots by standing at local council elections.

"I have always been a Liberal and I do not agree with the way he is being treated," he said.

Dangerous Options and Diary, page 14

## Guard stole from cash bags

Paul Johnson, aged 26, a Securicor guard, stuffed bundles of notes into his pockets after snatching cash bags with a razor blade and then sewing them up.

It was alleged at Reigate Magistrates' Court, Surrey, yesterday. He took £2,500.

Mr Johnson, of Rabies Heath Road, Bletchingley, Surrey, later telephoned to his employers and told them of the theft. He pleaded guilty to theft and was remanded on bail until April 5.

## Sir Richard says he has mixed views

In his letter to Mr Crosland, explaining that he did not want to continue as British Rail chairman beyond next September, Sir Richard Marsh said:

"When we spoke this morning I expressed, not for the first time, my concern as to the understandable speculation about my future with British Railways. I have frequently complained, privately and publicly, about the total lack of clarity of the board's objectives and I do not think matters should be made even worse by doubts about my own position."

I am, therefore, confirming the decision I conveyed to you this morning that I do not wish to be considered for reappointment when my contract expires in September. I do this with mixed feelings. I think an efficient railway system can make a significant contribution to the quality of life in this country but those entrusted with its management must have a clearer and more consistent view of the Government's desires than has been the case in recent years."

Of course, I recognize the massive problems which face modern governments but, although I accept that this is a very special business, I still believe that an undertaking with social as well as commercial objectives can be run on commercial principles.

I hope that your new policy will make that possible in the interests of everyone concerned. Obviously, I wish you every success in this latest attempt to provide a more stable future for the industry and think it might help if we make a completely new start in the autumn."

Mr Crosland replied: "Thank you very much for your letter of today's date."

I recognize the reasons which have led you to decide that you do not wish to be chairman of British Rail and it is with sincere personal regret that I accept your decision. I share with you the desire to work towards a stable future for the industry and I would like to express my appreciation for all that you have done over the last five years."

## Speculation on future of state chairmen

Continued from page 1

the board could not be fairly expected to cope. Even now, he had no idea of what was in Mr Crosland's mind about the future.

Interference in prices, with artificial restraint, changes in freight policies, battles on investment, all made it difficult to manage the railways in a businesslike way. There were no criteria for judging performance in such circumstances, Sir Richard said.

The fact was that there was no easy solution, and it was wrong to over-simplify the railway's difficulties and the causes of the huge deficits. The Government had to provide the railways' managers with a long-term policy.

British Rail had the capacity to be the best in the world, but it also had the capacity to be a declining industry.

No government should expect

the board to operate in a vacuum, he went on. It was discouraging to be still waiting for a concrete plan for the transport policy. He thought the industry would be unmanageable without the right changes.

Time and again he had been to Whitehall or written letters about the difficulties ahead unless there was a clearer, consistent policy. Yet the board was criticised all round about the size of losses.

It was his belief that the railways were not overmanned and the trade unions, while they could do more to help, were not the right scapegoats. The blame rested in Westminster.

It is expected that there will be no shortage of offers of top jobs from industry for Sir Richard, an active member of the Confederation of British Industry.

Lord Robens, another former Labour minister, went into

nationalized industry, but left the National Coal Board, making no secret of the frustrations he experienced for the chairman of Vickers, among other private sector posts.

There is bound to be intense speculation over the future of other state chairmen. One of them, Sir Mony Finniston, chairman of the Forestry Commission, is still awaiting a Department of Industry decision about his future.

Last night it was being suggested that Sir Mony may take the opportunity later today in a public house to talk about the kind of frustrations he and Mr Marsh have faced.

Other state chairmen awaiting reappointment over the coming months include Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the coal board, and the chairman of the Forestry Commission, the British Transport Docks Board, the Airports Authority, and the Civil Aviation Authority.

## Unity must be preserved, top union leaders say

Continued from page 1

social justice and social advance" could best be banded by Labour. If the Government fell it would be "a slap in the face for people who want to see Britain meet the economic crisis."

Unions' differences on methods of reducing unemployment had been reflected in the anti-party that had damaged the whole movement. "Is it to late to try to change the atmosphere?" the statement asked.

The impending Budget put a great responsibility on Mr Healey, but the TUC could not complain of lack of opportunities to present its views. As soon as possible after the Budget, the TUC/Labour Party Liaison Committee should meet urgently to work out proposals for maximum unity, based on manifesto policies but facing their implementation in the

light of economic difficulties—in other words, establishing a clear order of priorities.

That should be followed by a meeting between the TUC General Council, the party executive, and all the members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, it was stated.

"Within the trade union movement this approach could be linked to a special TUC Congress or conference of executives held to discuss future policy. Unity must be preserved. We are in danger of reaching the crossroads. With determination we believe that differences can be overcome and agreement reached on essentials. Our firm hope is that a platform will be established on which the whole movement will unite and arouse the necessary support, leading to a firm Labour victory at the next general election, whatever it comes, and the strengthening of

the trade union movement."

The statement added: "The alarm signals have sounded. Shall we respond to them or walk away, when the prospect of socialism and working class advance are set back for a lifetime?"

Pay rise limits: Mr Daniel McGarvey, general secretary of the boilermakers' union, yesterday committed his powerful voice to the growing opposition to any extension of flat-rate pay increases when the incomes policy expires on July 31.

Mr McGarvey, a senior member of the TUC General Council and one of its six representatives on the National Economic Development Council, said in his union's journal: "We will want a percentage increase to protect the craftsman's differential. But he argued that the upper limit beyond which no increases were payable should be raised."

## 'Honeymoon couple' bomb hotel

A couple posing to be on honeymoon led a bomb attack on the Russell Court hotel, Belfast, yesterday. But only the four smallest of six bombs they brought exploded.

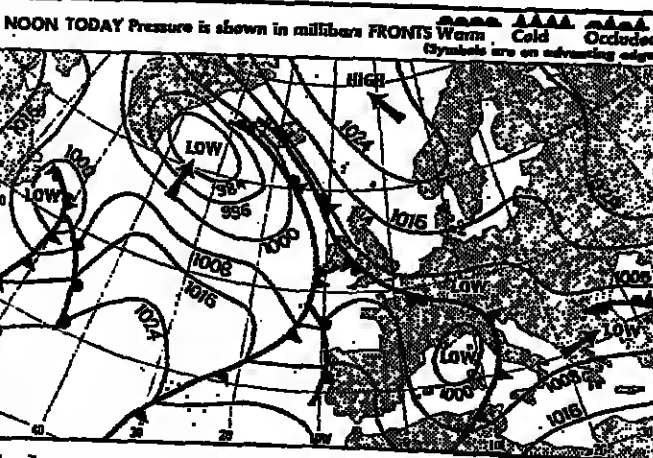
The couple had arrived with their luggage and a security guard into admitting them. Then they produced guns, tied the pair and let the rest of the bomb gang in through a side door.

Four bombs weighing 50 lb exploded, damaging the ground-floor bar, reception area and lounge, but none of the bedrooms was affected.

The two other bombs, both weighing 20 lb, failed to explode.

Diary, page 14

## Weather forecast and recordings



**Today**  
Sun rises: 6.12 am. Sun sets: 6.12 pm.  
Moon sets: 5.57 am. Moon rises: 7.7 pm.  
Full moon: 2.53 am.  
Lighting up: 6.37 pm to 5.40 am.  
High water: London Bridge, 1.34 am (25.5 ft); 2.1 pm, 7.8 am (25.5 ft); Avonmouth, 7.16 am (25.5 ft); Dover, 10.58 am, 6.59 pm (22.7 ft); 11.22 pm, 7.22 am (23.7 ft); Hull, 6.11 am, 7.58 am (24.6 ft); 6.20 pm, 7.8 am (25.7 ft); Liverpool, 11.13 am, 9.9 am (32.3 ft); 11.35 pm, 9.9 am (32.4 ft).

A cold SE airstream will cover most parts of the British Isles, but troughs of low pressure will affect some W districts.  
**Area forecasts:**  
London, East Anglia, SE, E, Central S, Central N, East, Midlands: Rather cloudy, scattered showers, a few bright intervals; wind E, light; max temp 6°C (43°F).  
Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, occasional rain; wind variable, light; max temp 8°C (46°F).  
N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow: Mainly dry, rather cloudy, bright or sunny intervals; wind moderate or fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).  
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, rain or sleet at times, snow over hills; wind SE, fresh or strong; max temp 4°C (39°F).

**Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday:** Little change at first, becoming drier, brighter and less cold from SW.

**WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY TODAY:** c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	12	SE	Cloudy	0
Edinburgh	10	SE	Cloudy	0
Belfast	11	SE	Cloudy	0
Cardiff	12	SE	Cloudy	0
Manchester	11	SE	Cloudy	0
Birmingham	12	SE	Cloudy	0
Nottingham	11	SE	Cloudy	0
Leeds	10	SE	Cloudy	0
Sheffield	11	SE	Cloudy	0
Coventry	12	SE	Cloudy	0
Bristol	13	SE	Cloudy	0
Exeter	14	SE	Cloudy	0
Plymouth	15	SE	Cloudy	0
Southampton	16	SE	Cloudy	0
Portsmouth	17	SE	Cloudy	0
Weymouth	18	SE	Cloudy	0
Bournemouth	19	SE	Cloudy	0
Dorchester	20	SE	Cloudy	0
Salisbury	21	SE	Cloudy	0
Andover	22	SE	Cloudy	0
Winchester	23	SE	Cloudy	0
Reading	24	SE	Cloudy	0
Wokingham	25	SE	Cloudy	0
Reading	26	SE	Cloudy	0
Wokingham	27	SE	Cloudy	0
Reading	28	SE	Cloudy	0
Wokingham	29	SE	Cloudy	0
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## MPs not to 'expose' dispute

By Our Pollster

MPs protest the absence of printed papers necessary for convenient use of the House of Commons.

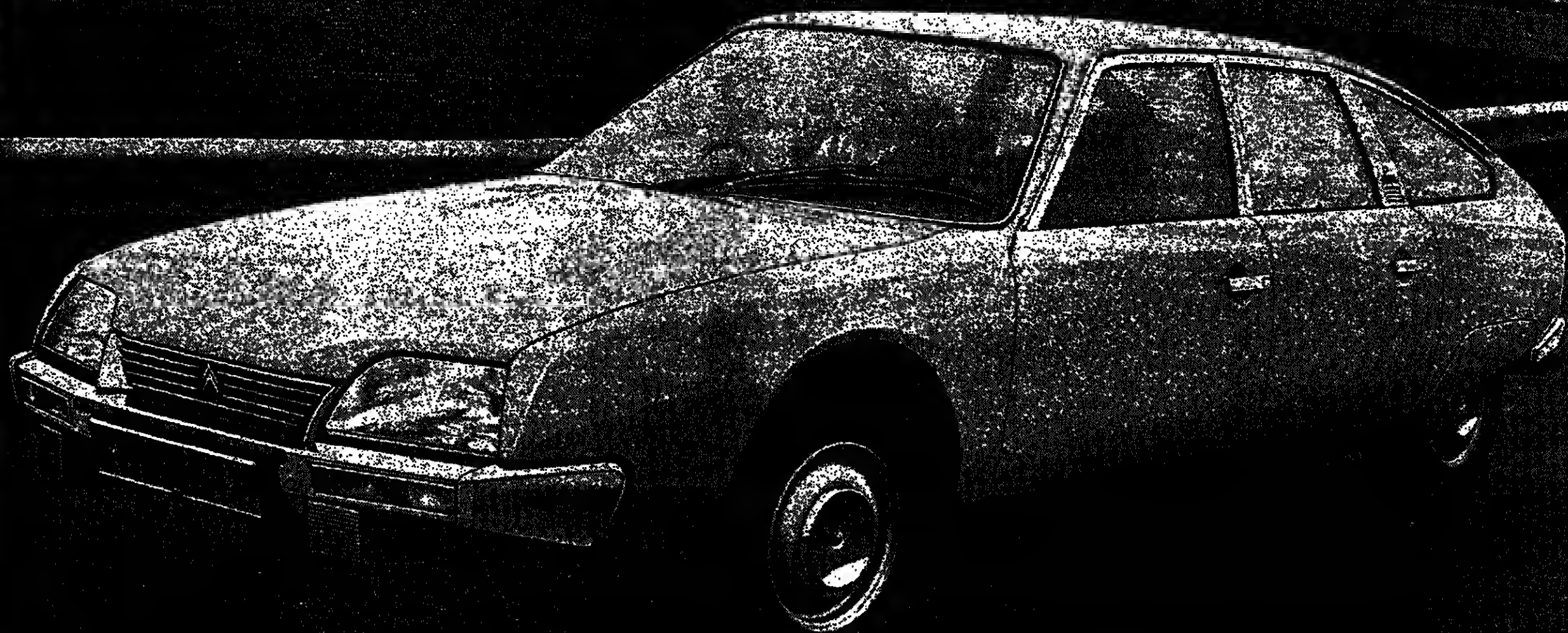
In the House of Commons, Mr. Jenkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that the House of Commons should not be used as a platform for the exposure of a dispute.

Although the House of Commons is a place where the House of Commons should not be used as a platform for the exposure of a dispute, Mr. Jenkins said that the House of Commons should not be used as a platform for the exposure of a dispute.

In a statement yesterday Mr. Jenkins said that the House of Commons should not be used as a platform for the exposure of a dispute, but that the House of Commons should not be used as a platform for the exposure of a dispute.

Asked what he would do if the House of Commons was used as a platform for the exposure of a dispute, Mr. Jenkins said that he would do nothing, but that the House of Commons should not be used as a platform for the exposure of a dispute.

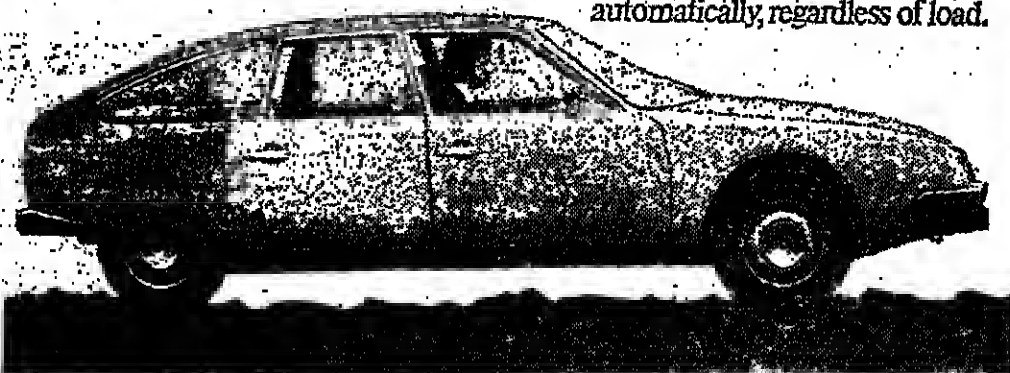




**Citroën promise businessmen a smoother ride this year.**

Whatever the economists may predict, Citroen can confidently promise businessmen and others a smoother journey through 1976.

The new Citroën CX can move you into a higher class of comfort, roadholding and security. Without necessarily asking you to invest even as much as you normally do in a business car.



## Pick a winner.

A new Citizen doesn't arrive on the scene every day or every year. When it does, it creates a special excitement.

True to Citroën form, the new CX was voted Europe's Car of the Year 1974/75 by an overwhelming margin, and has also won major awards for Safety and Styling.

The new CX is already an international success. Because it combines proved features with original, creative thinking for the nineteen-seventies and after.

## Take a rise.

When you switch on the CX, the famous Citroën Hydropneumatic suspension raises you gently up to driving height.

On the move, bumps in the road are soaked up by the shock-absorbing spheres connected to the wheels. Front and rear height correctors also keep the car at a constant height automatically, regardless of load.

**Strong on safety.**

**Peace of mind is an important element in driving comfort. The new CX is reassuringly strong on all aspects of safety.**

Handling is predictable, steering is precise rack-and-pinion, brakes are four wheel power-operated discs.



Inside, there are no dangerous projections. All hard edges are padded.

Body panels are programmed to collapse progressively front and rear. The passenger compartment is exceptionally rigid. A separate underframe and the transverse-mounted engine provide additional protection for CX driver and passengers.

**Creative design.**

**Creative design.**  
If you have to drive very long distances, you'll get tired.  
But less so in a **CX**.

In the ergonomic seat you can find your ideal driving position.

Positioning of instruments and vital controls is radically new, to provide instant information and involve least hand movements.



**Your first wet day out will prove that the single CX wiper is better than the conventional two, because it clears a wider screen area. And you'll soon see rain doesn't settle on the concave rear window.**

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**Allow economy.**  
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engine and the CX2200 Super and  
CX2200 Pallas with the 2175cc unit.

Prices, too, are less than you might

expect for cars of CX quality. The CX2000 is £3445.65. The CX2200 Super with electric windows, aerial and speakers and other Super features is £3775.59. The superb CX2200 Pallas with VariPower steering, special external trims, carpets and velours upholstery is £4360.58.

Front headrests and inertia reel belts, quartz halogen headlamps and defrosting rear window are standard on all CX models.

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The Citroën CX is the great new European executive car. Your Citroën dealer—listed below—will be pleased to arrange a demonstration and test drive.

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# CITROËN^CX



Mr. Silwell, of  
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## EUROPE

# dition leaders discuss blow to card prestige delivered by gains in cantonal elections

There are still doubts about the number of councils changing majorities because some of the 100 or so councillors classified "various left" have in the past, in order to obtain benefits for their localities, often voted with the Government camp.

Three of the general councils in the greater Paris region will be controlled by the Communists, who, in contrast to the Socialists, dropped back to 17 per cent of the vote yesterday.

The vote was attributed to the reluctance of some local Socialist formations to observe the "discipline of the left" order by M. François Mitterrand.

Mr. Georges Marchais, the Communist secretary-general immediately protested.

The national voting percentages on the second ballot for the main groups in 23 cantons were as follows (with first ballot percentages in brackets):

Centrist parties (in Government)	8.2 (8.7)
Independents	8.2 (8.5)
Republicans	11.8 (10.6)
Gaullists (UDR)	2.8 (2.4)
Left-wing Radicals	17.4 (22.8)
Communists	30.9 (26.5)
Socialists	

Remaining percentages went to various left-wing groups and independents.

The Gaullists alone in the Government camp managed to do somewhat better than in the first round. This was particularly the case with well-known personalities like M. Michel Debré, the former Prime Minister, who saved his general councillor's seat on 400 extra votes.

M. Marcel Cavallé, independent Republican Secretary of Transport, lost his seat.

President Giscard d'Estaing summoned to the Elysée today M. Chirac, the Gaullist Prime Minister, M. Pompidou, the Independent Republican Minister of the Interior, and M. Lec-

duet, the Centrist Minister of Justice, for a review of what has gone wrong for the coalition.

Some like M. Lecanuer, who alone of the Government leaders appeared on television last night, have already emphasised what many elements obviously feel—about the problems of unemployment, inflation, and social inequalities have compounded the lack of fulfilment over the past 22 months of the President's electoral programme.

M. Giscard d'Estaing also faces pressure against more reforms. M. Bertrand Motta, president of a leading independent group, said today that the cantonal verdict implied a "serious warning" that the majority has nothing to gain by borrowing something of the language and ideas from the Socialist myths. We are determined to draw the lessons.

The scene is now set for President Giscard d'Estaing's television broadcast in nine days, when a first indication of his intentions should emerge.

When Parliament opens next month there will be another test as the Government is due to come up with some capital gains tax proposals, the *bête noire* of the President's more conservative supporters.

M. Mitterrand sounded extremely cautious in his reaction to the poll. The troubles were only beginning, he maintained. One problem was relations with the Communists, and the second was that "it will be difficult for us to maintain this level of success during the next two years. All those who regret the Socialist progress will multiply the obstacles against us".

One other thing the cantonal elections have shown is that an alliance with the Communists has not alienated popular support. After drawing equal votes in 1973, the Socialists have since gone steadily ahead, reaching with yesterday's 30 per cent, as *Le Point* points out today, a better score than the old French Socialist Party of the Fourth Republic, obtained even in 1946.

From Dan van der Vat  
Düsseldorf, March 15

A four-lane road bridge with tramway tracks, 1,937ft long and weighing 12,500 tons, is to be moved bodily 156ft down the Rhine at Düsseldorf in four weeks' time.

This spectacular venture in civil engineering has been in preparation for 10 years, and 500 foreign bridge builders are to watch it by the city administration, which is making a great public occasion of the event.

The operation will last 13 hours and will be done in two halves over the daylight hours of April 7 and 8. The bridge, which is 114ft wide, rests on supports on either bank and is supported by a pylon, 328ft high, in the middle of the bridge, to which eight pairs of steel cables are attached.

The Oberkassel bridge links the city centre with the district of Oberkassel on the right bank of the river and is the city's most heavily used road traffic link.

It was completed in 1973. To avoid five years of traffic chaos, it was put up next to its predecessor, which was only two lanes wide, as the first part of a four-stage plan.

The second stage was the demolition of the old bridge, and the third the construction of permanent supports where the old bridge had stood, linked to the present temporary supports by concrete ramps.

## Bodily move for 1,913ft Rhine bridge City plans spectacular trip for river giant

The final stage involves sliding the new bridge off its present supports over the ramps to its permanent position.

The tops of the ramps are lined with mirror-polished stainless steel. Over this wall, the hard plastic better known as a lining for non-slick cooking pans, which becomes more slippery the more pressure is exerted on it.

Four huge hydraulic presses, two in the centre and two to "steer" on the Oberkassel side, will pull the bridge to its final resting place at a speed of a millimetre a second, or 12ft an hour. A gigantic special brake has been attached to the bridge to ensure that a steady pace is maintained.

A special big clock is being put up on the city centre side so the public can follow the move more easily. Loudspeakers are also going to be used to inform the expected tens of thousands of spectators.

A city official said: "I am sure many will come in anticipation of witnessing a possible disaster. We are providing special areas for viewing the removal, but it will happen so slowly that you will not be able to discern any movement."

The bridge will be closed on April 3, when its links to both shores will be severed. It re-opens to pedestrians and trams on April 17 and for motor traffic at the end of the month.

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This spectacular venture in civil engineering has been in preparation for 10 years, and 500 foreign bridge builders are to watch it by the city administration, which is making a great public occasion of the event.

The operation will last 13 hours and will be done in two halves over the daylight hours of April 7 and 8. The bridge, which is 114ft wide, rests on supports on either bank and is supported by a pylon, 328ft high, in the middle of the bridge, to which eight pairs of steel cables are attached.

The Oberkassel bridge links the city centre with the district of Oberkassel on the right bank of the river and is the city's most heavily used road traffic link.

It was completed in 1973. To avoid five years of traffic chaos, it was put up next to its predecessor, which was only two lanes wide, as the first part of a four-stage plan.

The second stage was the demolition of the old bridge, and the third the construction of permanent supports where the old bridge had stood, linked to the present temporary supports by concrete ramps.

## OVERSEAS

## Warning by FAO on world grain stocks

By Roger Berthoud

The failure of the world's greatest trading nations to agree how to manage trade in the world's principal food-grain, wheat, was deplored last night by Dr. Eric Ojala, Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Addressing the Trade Policy Research Centre in London, Dr. Ojala said that with aggregate stocks of basic foods at their present inadequate levels, a co-incident of bad harvests in the main developing and developed regions would spell severe malnutrition, possibly starvation, for millions of the world's poorest people.

Equally, bumper crops in all regions would produce a surplus which would discourage export producers, leading straight back to insecurity.

Measures to establish buffer stocks of basic foods were being held up, he said, mainly by the slow pace of the current multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Serious differences persisted on the nature, purpose and management of food stocks.

In both the GATT talks and those of the International Wheat Council, the main participants were the United States, the EEC, Australia and Canada, with Argentina also looming large.

The technical problems of an international grain arrangement with reserve stocks were solvable, he said. But the political momentum seemed to have been lost. In the meanwhile, developing countries could not establish large enough stocks to provide security against major crop failures.

Dr. Ojala attached great importance to the first meeting on April 5 in Rome of the FAO-sponsored Committee on World Food Security, an inter-governmental body.

The aim was to achieve an internationally coordinated network of nationally owned and managed stocks, within an agreed general policy framework.

## Tass attacks 'Times' report on Nato

From Our Correspondent  
Moscow, March 15

Tass today attacked *The Times* for its report on a Nato study of the possible effect of a surprise attack by Warsaw Pact forces on western Europe. It strongly criticized the "sensational treatment" given to the Nato report.

Tass also took exception to the publication in the same issue of a commentary by Lord Chalfont, whom it described as a notorious opponent of détente and the author of many anti-Soviet writings. The intention was to inflame passions in the West against the socialist states so as to further intensify the arms race, said Tass.

"The reason for this is not far to seek. Certain circles in the West do not welcome the improvement in the political climate as a result of the policy of détente consistently pursued by the Soviet Union and other socialist states."

Tass said this was what Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist Party leader, had in mind recently when he called allegations of a Soviet threat "a monstrous lie from beginning to end", and said the Soviet Union had no intention of attacking anyone.

MP's anxiety: The Nato defence study which is reported to claim that the Warsaw Pact could deliver a successful surprise attack on Western Europe using only conventional forces,

was "extremely disturbing", Mr. Ian Gilmour, the Shadow Defence Minister, said yesterday.

"It underlines the warnings given so spectacularly by Mrs. Thatcher in January and Conservative spokesmen since then", he added. "All this confirms that this is a crazy time for the Government to go on cutting Britain's defences."

Mr. Gilmour, MP for Chesham and Amersham, said: "The situation is even more dangerous than the report suggests because it apparently leaves out the sea-option of the Russians."

"Europe should do everything in its power to build up its forces and to become more cohesive militarily. Any suggestion that there should be any uncoupling in the alliance between America and Europe would be totally wrong."

Brussels, March 15.—Nato sources said the study was not an official Nato report. Attempts were being made to trace it.

The military committee, Nato's most senior military body, had not received such a study. It was not being circulated to national military representatives here. The political authorities at Nato headquarters would not receive such a study until it had cleared the military committee.

—Reuter.

Leading article, page 15

## US hearing on Concorde in New Jersey Senate

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, March 15

British and French representatives appeared today at a public hearing on Concorde in Trenton, New Jersey, called by the New Jersey State Senate.

They argued in favour of the aircraft being given landing rights in New York, and were opposed by speakers from the New York state legislature, who want it banned.

New Jersey is important because the three airports in the New York area are jointly run by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The New York state legislature has adopted a Bill which would ban Concorde, but it will only come into effect if identical legislation is passed in New Jersey.

The port authority decided last week to ban Concorde for a minimum of six months while its performance is tested; but British Airways and Air France are expected to challenge the decision in court.

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## in group ks out r Leipzig ss ban

From Dan van der Vat  
March 15

An entire delegation to the Spring Fair walked away and returned home. East Germany refused to let three West German artists to cover the event.

The delegation, led by Dr. Hans-Joachim Lauth, Minister of Economic Affairs, was at first approached by East German officials. The ban reversed. When led, Dr. Friedrichs telephoned Herr Schmidt, the German Minister of Economic Affairs, and Herr Genscher, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss his decision to let the visit.

Three correspondents released work for the two German radio stations broadcast abroad, one to the other to the stations. The two stations are the Bonn Government, not dissimilar to the ship between the EEC's Services and the Government, enjoying support but editorial independence.

Bonn clearly regards stations as propaganda and Bonn has already issued a sports commission from one and a reporter from the other. The spokesman of the magazine *Der Spiegel* was from East Berlin for a that the children of who fled to the West being farmed out for adoption in East Germany.

A strongly-worded statement from a Bonn press conference today. Herr Klaus, the chief government spokesman, described the ban as a breach of German agreements made at the Helsinki security conference.

Günter Gaus, West German Permanent Representative to East Berlin, was yesterday an appointment times at the East Foreign Ministry.

## Madrid Cabinet said to be facing crisis

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, March 15

Reports circulating in Madrid today spoke of a Government crisis allegedly precipitated by the desire of Señor Carlos Arias Navarro, the Prime Minister, to resign.

Other ministerial changes may be in the offing.

According to reliable sources, Señor Arias is anxious to leave. He is believed to have informed King Juan Carlos about his intention when he saw him on Friday night.

Señor Arias Navarro, who was Prime Minister under Franco, offered his resignation after the king's death. He was believed then to have agreed to see the country through the transitional period, with a view to resigning later. Informed sources also spoke of a "power struggle" between Señor Arias and Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the Interior Minister, over the direction in which the country should be heading and the speed of the promised democratic reforms.

A taxi driver was shot dead in Guebarra, near San Sebastian, it was learnt here today. The killing, believed to be the work of the Basque separatist organization E.T.A., came after speculation that the fatal shootings in Victoria by police might lead to a new wave of anti-Government violence by Basque extremists.

The driver, named as Manuel Albizu Aliaga, was found slumped over the wheel.

Meanwhile, the military authorities are keeping silent about an Army major understood to have been arrested last week. Sources close to the Democratic Military Union, an illegal group calling for democratic reforms, said recently that the intelligence service has been making investigations into the activities of certain officers with a view to rounding up alleged members of the organization.

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## Italian police accused over fatal shooting

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, March 15

The Communists accuse the police of having lost their heads in a fight with extremists in the centre of Rome yesterday which cost the life of an innocent passer-by who was apparently hit by a police bullet.

The case is today the subject of a series of parliamentary questions calling on the Government for an explanation.

Signor Mario Marotta, who was 53, was killed on the Pincio hill after the police had pursued a group of left-wing extremists from the Piazza di Spagna. The extremists had thrown incendiary bombs at the Spanish Embassy to the Holy See.

The Communist interpretation of the incident, published on the front page of the party's newspaper *L'Unità*, is that the authorities charged with

guaranteeing law and order were incapable of carrying out their task. And if it were not a question of incompetence, some very disquieting questions would be raised about the decisions of those responsible for public order. Criminal and provocative acts had been committed lately in Rome by different forces. And in June, local elections would be held.

"The democratic forces know too well by now the techniques and the objectives of provocation, the way people are caught by surprise and led to understand that it is the moment for the greatest unity and continuous as well as careful vigilance."

In Bari yesterday the Communists organized a demonstration to mark the twentieth anniversary of the death of three workers in a police attack on a crowd of workers.

## d tape strangles one n's concept of the EEC

From Our Own Correspondent  
March 15

European unity really exist? This is a question put to the Commission in Brussels by Signor Libero della Porta, an Italian Socialist member of the European Parliament, after the Kafkaesque antics of one EEC citizen to transport a small piece of modern furniture to Luxembourg.

The unidentified Luxembourg resident, who was in the car when he was told there was no way to bring his car home, he took it to a railway station and to send it by train.

He was confronted by a mass of forms comprising a dispatch note, to be sent six times (which he had to give about a separate item of information, an export declaration, to be completed in triplicate, which required him to 40 different pieces of information), and another ques-

tionnaire declaration with 38 different boxes to be filled in. He was also required to produce three copies of the bill of lading, which had been paid for in cash.

The Luxembourg resident gave up the attempt to send his purchase by rail, preferring to use the services of a private delivery firm, which charged him four times the railway tariff rate.

Was this the case of normal procedure and if so, did the Commission not feel that the amount of bureaucratic red tape surrounding a straightforward operation was bound to give Europeans serious doubts as to the existence of the EEC, Signor della Porta asked.

The Commission apparently felt unable to answer the question directly. Its reply published in Brussels today is limited to pointing out that some of the documents produced were no longer required. It also promised to look into the details of the case more closely.

## Protesters raid right-wing groups' offices

From Our Correspondent  
Milan, March 15

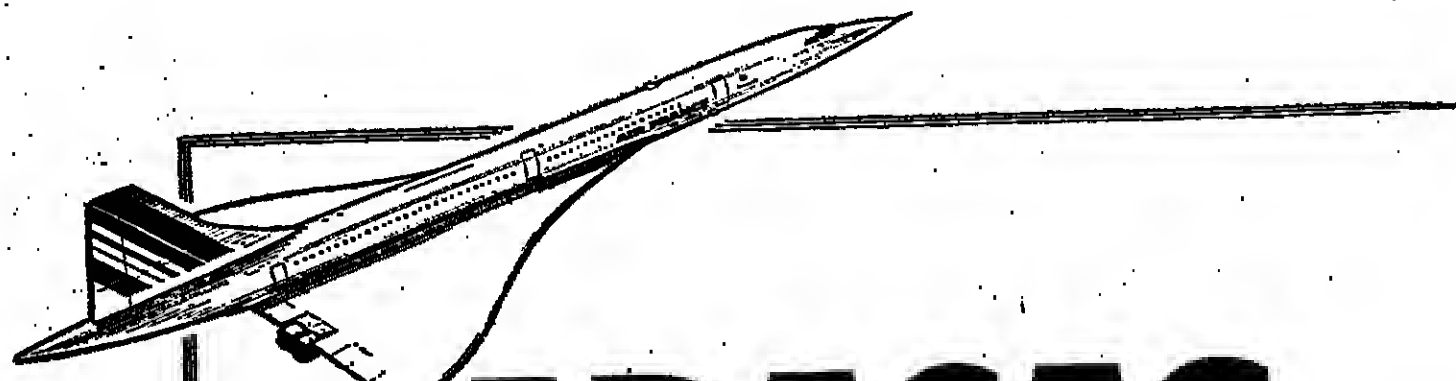
Hundreds of left-wingers today attacked the offices of right-wing organizations as well as bars, nightclubs and shops owned or patronized by right-wingers. They were protesting against the shooting by the police of a civilian during yesterday's riots in Rome.

The left-wingers, organized in small groups, threw incendiary bombs, smashed windows and broke into offices.

The police, who had been concentrated near the Spanish Consulate, were unable to reach any of the trouble spots in time. Damage was reported to be heavy but there were no casualties.

## 24-hour strike

Paris, March 15.—The Paris Metro was hit today by a 24-hour strike as the trade unions in the public sector kept up their pressure on the Government for a new wage agreement.



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## OVERSEAS

# Mr Carter favourite in Illinois after national poll shows that he could defeat President Ford

From Michael Binyon  
Chicago, March 15

Mr Jimmy Carter flew back to Illinois this morning for a final few hours campaigning in sunny but windy Chicago, encouraged by some of the city's newspapers, a national opinion poll which puts him marginally ahead of Senator Hubert Humphrey—for the first time—as President Ford's main challenger, and the general expectation that he will win the Illinois Democratic primary tomorrow.

His main rival, Governor George Wallace, was still putting up a strong fight and held an early morning meeting in Chicago, two press conferences in the centre of Illinois, and an evening rally in Springfield, the state capital. In an effort to play down the issue of his health, which has dogged him in Illinois since his Florida defeat, the Alabama governor recorded a television interview sitting in an ordinary chair instead of a wheelchair.

The Wallace campaign is still confident of victory. "It's beautiful, beautiful, everyone's gone crazy," said one of his campaign staff, and the Carter camp is still worried that the conservative rural voters will back Mr Wallace in force. Hedging his bets, Governor Wallace has already played down the significance of the popular ballot, saying that he is mainly after delegates (the presidential preference primary is a non-binding or "beauty contest" unrelated to the election of delegates to the national convention, except psychologically: in each congressional district the biggest vote winner takes all delegates).

Nevertheless, Mr Wallace has tried to broaden his appeal, touching for a minute on local issues and attacking Mr Carter directly for supposedly being a former shy turned foe.

Mr Sargent Striver, who is expected to come third, was still making optimistic forecasts of victory by a margin of 3 or 4 per cent and boasting about



## US Presidential Elections 1976

the influential Illinois figures who have endorsed his campaign—though, much to his chagrin they do not include Mr Richard Daley, the Chicago mayor, who has refused to commit his weight and prestige to any of the declared runners.

The only other Democrat in Illinois, Mr Fred Harris, seems to have given up. He went back to Washington at the weekend, leaving his campaign staff muttering: "We're after delegates." He will not get many.

In the Republican camp, both contenders have now left the state. President Ford, after 40 busy hours in Illinois, departed on Friday and Mr Ronald Reagan left this, his native state, for California on Saturday. The President should win handsomely over the former California governor: his campaign here was professional and effective, and the man himself responded accordingly. There were none of the famous slips and trips, the defensive tone had gone, and President Ford looked and spoke like a suave leader. Illinois seems to have been rather surprised by this unexpected image.

Certainly, his reception by Republican party volunteers and campaign staff was warm and enthusiastic. Reagan headquarters were making good use of the suspension of Mr "Bo" Callaway, the Ford campaign manager, but this has not aroused much interest here.

For all that, however, the Illinois campaign has not been very exciting, mainly because people are too preoccupied with the domestic battle for state governor, the primaries for which also take place

tomorrow. A Chicago poll says that only 45 per cent will turn out to vote.

Spot samples in Chicago revealed widespread apathy. A student, aged 25, knew President Ford and Mr Reagan, "but I can't think of that other dude's name".

Last-minute abuse is still flying around in the governor's race. With the present Democratic governor, Mr Daniel Walker, abruptly deciding not to reveal any further 1972 campaign contributions until after the election and Mr Michael Siewert, his Daley-backed opponent, saying: "Those who talk holy seldom come clean themselves," a local pundit thinks the weather will make all the difference. But the only predictable outcome is that Mr Daley will continue to "pull the shots" whoever wins.

This morning the Chicago Tribune said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had received a report of a plot to assassinate President Ford and Mr Reagan at the Republican convention in Kansas City, by an underground terrorist group in California. But the reported details were hazy. Fred Emery writes from Washington: The Gallup Poll today shows Mr Carter trending to beat President Ford by 47 to 42 per cent. The same poll indicates that Mr Humphrey, a non-candidate who remains the choice among Democrats, would tend to lose to the President by 48 to 43 per cent. The poll sample was taken last week after the Florida primary won by Mr Carter.

A tentative conclusion has to be that Mr Carter at present has greater appeal than does Mr Humphrey to the non-partisan independent voter who, of course, has barely been voting in the primaries.

Mr Carter, with a less reliable history and less influence, was reported in Time magazine, and there Mr Ford tended to come out the winner. The Yankelovich poll tended to show Carter by 46 to 38 per cent, beating Mr Ford by 52 to 37 per cent.



These Rhodesian troops, based at a barracks near Salisbury, are being put through a tough commando-type course as part of the Smith Government's intensification of the training of its white and black forces.

## Rhodesians 'have not massacred Africans'

From Richard Cecil  
A Special Correspondent  
Mount Darwin, Rhodesia, March 15

A German Roman Catholic missionary today denied knowledge of massacres of African villagers by Rhodesian troops. He said: "They may have beaten Africans, but they have not massacred them. We would have heard about it."

His mission, St Albert's, is the only one remaining in the operational area north of Mount Darwin in north-eastern Rhodesia, where the massacres are alleged to have taken place. Below the Zambezi escarpment nearer the Mozambique border, where the mission has been based for more than a year and their inhabitants have been gathered into protected villages with their own militia or home

guard to reduce terrorist influence and intimidation.

Certainly a massacre would not confirm with the Rhodesian Army's attempts to win the hearts and minds, as I have seen them. The hearts and minds campaign has been broadly modelled on that of the British Army in Malaya, of which the Rhodesian Army knows a great deal through former British officers who served there.

In the Mount Darwin area the scheme is jealously and strictly watched over by Mr James Latham, the District Commissioner, and probably the leading authority on the language, customs and superstitions of the Mboke, the main tribe of the area. Both sides, terrorists and white Rhodesians, recognized from the start that whoever controlled the spirit medium of this tribe controlled the people. The terrorists have tried to

win them over through intimidation, and, from what I have seen of the dead and the still living mutilated bodies of Africans who are regularly brought into the hospital here, they are doing so with great determination and in some areas with success.

However, one of the most important characteristics of the spirit mediums of the Mboke are their abhorrence of bloodshed. Mr Latham therefore has used the opposite approach and has wooed them with administrative help in setting up their subsistence level agriculture around the consolidated villages. To this end, the Army has been ploughing fields, sinking boreholes and making dams; and recently engineers and farmers have been encouraged to spend their National Service in the new "psychological action" teams which are taking this role over from the soldiers.

Mr Latham has clashed with an Army impatient to get Africans in border areas into protected villages for tactical reasons. He argues that in ignoring their deep spiritual attachments to natural features and for the land itself is to alienate them for a very long time. Resettlement has therefore been slowed to allow time to gain the cooperation of the spirit mediums and for more detailed research of the land to be resented.

The most damning accusations of atrocities have come from Mr Tom McCarthy, an Irishman brought up in London, who deserted from the Rhodesian Army after six months' service. He declared in the Daily Mirror that he had taken part in the massacre of the entire population of a village in this area, and had been made to execute an African boy.

## West curfew disturb worsen

From Eric...  
Jerusalem, March 15

An incident placed on the eighth night of this afternoon's disturbances in the Arab quarter in a began a week of Israeli troops, warning, in their homes, the town were given until dark.

The curfew was heavy street stone-throwing troops, in one, Israeli Army of Israel, and stop Army which rocks across the street. Troops were girls school, had been through a riot, and for a barricaded street. Arab children were being dragged to the school.

Shots were fired at a refugee tent, burning. Troops ordered to sit on the floor, their heads were made for trouble.

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## Dr Castro in talks on Africa's liberation

Paris, March 15.—Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister, today began talks in Conakry, Guinea, with the heads of state of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone, which are likely to decide the future of the fight for the liberation of Southern Africa.

Dr Castro, President Neto, of liberation of Southern Africa, Angola, and President Cabral of Guinea-Bissau, arrived in Conakry last night for a previously announced summit meeting hosted by President Sekou Touré of Guinea.

Before leaving Luanda for the meeting Dr Neto told reporters that he was going to discuss "problems regarding our liberation struggle and the liberation struggles in Southern Africa".

Conakry radio today gave the impression that Dr Castro was discussing with the leaders who helped to engineer the Soviet and Cuban victory in Angola what steps should be taken in the left-winged struggle for the liberation of Africa.

Imperialism was "quaking" at the prospect of a new progressive common front in Africa, the radio said. Because of "the unity of the African people" and "the progressive world" had decided "on longer to submit", the radio added.

Dr Castro had earlier visited Eastern Europe and Algeria. Reporting this morning's session of the talks Luanda radio in Angola said they had centred on multilateral and bilateral issues, but noted that the summit meeting could mean increased aid "to peoples fighting against apartheid, imperialism and colonialism".

They will have significance "not only for our continent, but for all exploited peoples", the Angolan radio station said. Meanwhile here in Paris, President Senegal of Senegal today criticized the Conakry meeting. He said that Africans must not go looking for big brothers. It is time we Africans started thinking for ourselves.—Agence France-Press.

## S Africa seeks an intermediary

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, March 15

South Africa's attempts to negotiate a withdrawal of its troops from southern Angola in exchange for guarantees concerning the Cunene river irrigation and hydro-electric scheme appear to have run into difficulties.

The Government is now seeking new ways of breaking the impasse between Cape Town and the left-wing regime in Luanda. One possibility being discussed, and which has been leaked to the press, is for a Western country to take over responsibility for the completion of the Cunene project.

This would involve completing the final stages of a dam at Calueque, about 15 miles inland from the sea, and a dam and power station at Ruacana, situated on either side of the Angolan-Namibian (South-West African) border.

At the moment the proposal is still at the discussion stage. As far as can be ascertained, no Western country has been approached yet; but the fact that such an idea is being considered at all indicates that

the Vorster Government is anxious to find a way out of its present predicament.

One of the main problems is the difficulty in finding an intermediary who could communicate between South Africa and Angola. Most in South Africa's "desperate partners" in the Popular Front (MPLA) rulers in Luanda, and all black states support the view that South Africa should withdraw from South-West Africa as well as Angola.

For its part, South Africa wants to have water-tight guarantees about the Cunene scheme, in which it has invested more than £100m, before pulling its troops. From its point of view, the guarantee would be more credible if underwritten by a Western country rather than merely coming verbally from the MPLA.

However, tension in the border area should be eased by South Africa's decision last week to withdraw from Pereira d'Eca and other southern Angolan refugee centres and hand over the refugee problem to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Mr P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister, said today that South African troops would give no further assistance after March 27 to the 5,000 refugees in Southern Angola. He was replying to a statement by the Windhoek representative of the ICRC, Mr Peter Kung, that South African troops were still in charge at two refugee camps, at Cuangar and Calueque.

Some 270 black Angolans, most of them men claiming to be former members of the Union for Total Independence (Unita), crossed into Ovambo land in Northern Namibia today and are being cared for by South African forces, according to Mr Jamie de Wet, the Commissioner General for the indigenous Peoples of South-West Africa.

The refugees had been left behind at the Pereira d'Eca camp because they did not qualify for an airlift to Portugal. They had fled into Namibia because they were frightened of the advancing MPLA and Cuban forces, they said.

A number of other refugees are still reported to be approaching the Namibian border. "When they arrive on the border we will let them through," Mr de Wet said. "We can do nothing else. We certainly cannot send them back at this stage."

## Angolan-Zambian talks on recognition

From Our Correspondent  
Lusaka, March 15

A six-man delegation from the left-wing MPLA Government of Angola arrives in Lusaka tomorrow in a new diplomatic initiative aimed at recognizing Zambia's recognition of that Government.

The delegation will be led by Mr José Eduardo dos Santos, the Angolan Foreign Minister. Among other things, he is to be asked to close the bases of the rival Angolan liberation movements on its territory.

After its defeat by MPLA troops, with Soviet and Cuban support, Unita has engaged in guerrilla warfare in southern Angola where it has opened bush airstrips to land military equipment for its forces.

When Mr Rupiah Banda, the Zambian Foreign Minister, visited France, Portugal and Yugoslavia, deep concern was expressed over Zambia's refusal to recognize Dr Agostino Neto's Government.

On his return yesterday Mr Banda told reporters that the three European countries favoured a normalization of relations between Zambia and Angola.

Zambia has advocated a government of national unity in Angola comprising the MPLA, Unita and the third liberation movement FNLA. President Kaunda of Zambia told a press conference last month that Zambia "would not go on our knees" to recognize the Lusaka Government.

He was reacting to reports from Luanda that Dr Neto had accused him of barbouring and pandering to Mr Daniel Chipande, who broke away from the MPLA and later joined the FNLA in Zaire.

President Kaunda also reacted sharply to reports that the MPLA Government had seized Zambian copper at the port of Lobito.

He also told the press conference that Unita would not be permitted to have bases in Zambia. He said that the MPLA Government was expected to press for the release of more than 700 UNLF trucks which were seized in Angola by MPLA during the civil war. It will also call for the reopening of the Benguela railway line to Lobito for Zambian trade.

## Loyal troops foil coup attempt in Niger

Namie, March 15.—President Seyni Kountché of Niger today announced that loyal troops had foiled an attempted coup led by Major Moussa, a former member of the Supreme Military Council, he stated, had the situation under control thanks to loyalist elements in the armed forces.

He told his countrymen in a broadcast that the coup's three leaders—Major Moussa, Captain Sidi Mohamed and Mr Ahmed Mondouf, the secretary-general of the Niger National Union of Workers—had been arrested.

President Kountché, who has ruled Niger since 1960, said that the coup's three leaders had been arrested. He said that the coup's three leaders had been arrested.

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## Bomb casu at Argentin Army com

Buenos Aires, March 15.—At least seven persons were killed when a bomb exploded in the 20-storey building of the Argentine Army's general command in the city of Buenos Aires.

The explosion, which killed at least 200 yards from the building, was the worst in the city since the 1966 bombing of the Argentine Embassy in London.

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## Students wish to 'save' Mr Teng

Hongkong, March 15.—The official New China news agency indicated in a report today that Mr Teng Hsiao-Ping, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, may still have some chances of political survival.

It quoted teachers and students at Tsinghua university, Peking, as saying they would "try once again to save him, through serious criticism, as we did during the earlier days of the Cultural Revolution and see how he behaves in the future."

Mr Teng, aged 72, who has been attacked in wallposters for several weeks, was not named, but the agency clearly alluded to him as "that unrepentant capitalist ruler."

The report appeared to be more conciliatory than recent People's Daily articles. Mr Teng was first "purged" during the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s but was rehabilitated in April 1973. He has not been

heard of since January 15 and has been chief target of an anti-right-wing campaign.

Students said teachers and students raised the question: "since he persists in practising revisionism, what shall we do?" The main experience drawn from the Cultural Revolution gives the answer that the masses must be aroused to expose and criticize revisionism.

"Whoever practises revisionism may be criticized, no matter how high his position or how long his service. He cannot be left unchallenged because this would lead to the restoration of capitalism."

"Chairman Mao has formulated this consistent policy for our party: 'Learn from the past mistakes to avoid future ones and cure the sickness to save the patient.'"

The Tsinghua teachers and students accused Mr Teng of peddling the theory of the dying out of class struggle. It

added: "Organizationally, he tried to rally like-minded capitalist-roaders to overthrow the conclusions reached to the great proletarian cultural revolution, and stage a frantic comeback against the proletarian."

Peking, March 15.—Mr Hua Kuo-Feng, the acting Prime Minister, today greeted a foreign head of government for the first time since his appointment five weeks ago. Mr Hua, smiling and waving to diplomats and journalists, met Mr Kayumov, the Foreign Minister, and the Mayor of Peking, Mr Wei Teb. Neither Mr Teng Hsiao-Ping, nor the woman

widely regarded as his main opponent, Mr Chiang Ching, the Premier's wife, were present.—Reuters.

## New Zealand envoy in London to quit

From Our Correspondent  
Auckland, March 15

Mr Hugh Watt, the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, has resigned and will return to New Zealand in June to become a member of the Government Accident Compensation Commission. He will be succeeded by Mr Douglas Carter, a former Minister of Agriculture. Mr Watt's resignation relieves the Government of some embarrassment. He was deputy Prime Minister in the ousted Labour Government and was posted to London after failing in an attempt to take over the Labour leadership on Mr Norman Kirk's death.

Mr Carter's experience in agriculture has been an advantage at a time when the High Commission must concern itself with New Zealand's opportunities in Europe.

## Whitlam conspiracy case hearing can go ahead

Canberra, March 15.—A magistrate ruled today that a hearing of conspiracy charges against Mr Gough Whitlam, the former Australian Prime Minister, and three of his ministers could go ahead after legal argument over his jurisdiction in the case.

The case, brought by a Sydney solicitor, Mr Danny Sankey, was adjourned last month after defence counsel submitted that the magistrate in the Queensland Court of Perry Sessions was not empowered to adjudicate on the charges.

However, the magistrate, Mr Darcy Leo, said today it was clear he had power to deal with the charges brought under the Commonwealth (Federal) Crimes Act.

Mr Whitlam and his three co-defendants face conspiracy charges brought under New South Wales common law in addition to the Crimes Act, relating to the Labour Government's efforts last year to raise a \$500,000 (£25,000) Arab loan.

Charged with Mr Whitlam are Mr Rex Connor, former Minister for Minerals and Energy, Dr James Cairns,

former Treasurer, and a lost their portfolios of the loans affair. Senator Lionel Murphy was then Attorney-General.

The loans issue is now a High Court case, but the Government by the General Sir John Latham, the Liberal-Country coalition, led by Mr Whitlam, said the case was not a political crisis.

Mr Leo said the case was not a political crisis. He said the case was not a political crisis.

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## ENTERTAINMENTS

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## OPERA AND BALLET

**COVENT GARDEN** 240 1066.  
Tonight, *La Traviata*.  
Tomorrow, *La Traviata*.  
Sally Adams, soprano; John Pritchard, tenor; John Pritchard, bass; John Pritchard, bass.

**ROYAL BALLET** 240 1066.  
Tonight, *La Traviata*.  
Tomorrow, *La Traviata*.  
Sally Adams, soprano; John Pritchard, tenor; John Pritchard, bass; John Pritchard, bass.

## CONCERTS

**QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL** 240 1066.  
Tonight, *La Traviata*.  
Tomorrow, *La Traviata*.  
Sally Adams, soprano; John Pritchard, tenor; John Pritchard, bass; John Pritchard, bass.

## THEATRES

**ADOLPHUS THEATRE** 01-836 7611.  
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Tonight, *La Traviata*.  
Tomorrow, *La Traviata*.  
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## THE ARTS

## The philosophy of the simultaneous

To the catalogue of their first exhibition in Paris in February 1912, the Futurists declared (it was probably written by Boccioni): "The simultaneousness of the states of mind in the work of art: that is the intoxicating aim of our art." The words "simultaneous" and "simultaneity" were taken up by the French painter Robert Delaunay, and simultaneously became one of the most discussed ideas in art and literature in the years immediately before the First World War.

Apollinaire and Cendrars wrote simultaneous poems. Delaunay produced simultaneous pictures. His wife Sonia Delaunay, who also painted, applied the idea to clothes, furnishings, cars, book jackets and—her most original contribution to simultaneity—an extraordinary version in great splashes of colour and different type faces of Cendrars's poem *Transsiberien*.

Simultaneity was the expression of multiple awareness, the consciousness of things happening in different parts of the world at the same time, the result of rapid travel and new "communications"—the telephone, the telegraph, the wireless, the modern newspaper. We have now become accustomed to the revolutionary nature of this change which began to hit people in the 1920s; immunized by the clever but ill-phrased of Marshall McLuhan. Yet it is still our sufficiently recognized that ideas like world consciousness and the global village were first formulated by Marinetti.

At Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, a most imaginative exhibition, *Time and Space Died Yesterday*, has been organized to document the idea of simultaneity as it was seen by writers and artists. The quotation in the title comes from Marinetti, but although the Futurist contribution is not minimized, the exhibition concentrates on the ideas of poets and painters working in Paris and has been put on with the help of Sonia Delaunay, now over 90, who has lost photographs. Not a single original simultaneous painting is included, but by means of photographs, slides, quotations and music the excitement and newness of this realization of the multiplicity of the modern consciousness is most vividly re-created.

The catalogue essay, by Virginia Spate, who conceived the exhibition, is simply and eruditely the way in which these ideas developed, and is rich in fascinating quotations. The show has been put together by the Faculty of Architecture and History of Art at the University of Homerton College and Chelsea School of Art. It is a model of how to convey information and imaginative re-creation by using some of the very means of communication which simultaneity celebrated.

As well as photographs and slides, a huge translation of Cendrars's *Transsiberien* has been freely adapted from Sonia Delaunay's design on to wall screens and a model made of Robert Delaunay's method of studying light and the spectral colours by means of a hole drilled in the shutters of his



Peter Phillips: La Dore, 1975

room. There are windows to peep through, bits of Eiffel Tower to duck under, and reconstructions of some of the Futurist's most applied designs. This immensely stimulating exhibition continues at Kettle's Yard until April 6 and it is hoped that it will later be shown in London and elsewhere. The Arts Council, who contributed financially to its organization, certainly ought to see that it tours as widely as possible.

At the end of her introduction Virginia Spate writes: "Today few would share the Simultanists' optimism about contemporary life; their enjoyment of dynamism of the city has turned to exasperation, boredom, misery. Few would

share their belief that it is meaningful to create an art which expresses modern life or share their faith that such an art can transform the way we live, think and feel." She concludes: "We should ask why." But the answer has already been largely given at the beginning of her essay: "Simultaneism was in fact the fruit of a marvellously cosmopolitan flowering of the arts, interrupted only by that simultaneous cataclysm, the first WORLD WAR."

It is true that after yet another world war the Simultanists' faith in technology is not shared by many today. But there were many artists in their own time—the German expressionists, the Dadaists,

among others, who did not share it then. And a fascination with, if not necessarily an optimism about, the effects of speed and communications on the modern consciousness can be found among visual artists today.

There are four large pictures among those in his new exhibition which are very good. They are called *Mosaikbild* although they are not mosaics so much as grids of quite large squares. The pictures are composed of several images, highly realistic, drawn from magazines and advertisements; chocolates, pin-ups and cars predominate, and an image of a woman's face, the tiger. These images extend over three or more squares and interlock like a puzzle.

The grid has the effect of flattening out the images by drawing attention to the way the face of the painting, so that despite their photographic realism they seem to have hardly any depth or illusionistic space. Each picture resembles a large and very sophisticated mid-century screen projection.

This means that the images tend to be viewed almost literally simultaneously and these paintings of Phillips can be seen as a very interesting updating of the concept of simultaneity, which in reality is as live an issue today as it was in 1913, although Phillips's techniques are quite different from those of Delaunay, Leger, or the Futurists.

With the exception of *Autobahn*, a "two-screen" painting on a double canvas, Phillips's other paintings at Waddington are less successful. There is a retrospective showing of his prints dating back to the early Sixties at the Tate outside the coffee bar.

Phillips, like another good artist of the pop generation, Derek Boshier, was unaccountably left out of *Arte Ingles* Oggi at Milan. But both artists have been included in another British Council exhibition, *Pop Art in England*, in Hamburg until March 21, and to Manchester from April 3 to May 16. The only English showing will be at York City Art Gallery from May 29 until July 11.

Paul Overy

## Solti works a miracle with Mahler

LPO/Solti Festival Hall.

William Mann

On Sunday Sir Georg Solti finished his current series of concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. They have shown out like good deeds in a not uneventful but routine musical world where, just now, symphony orchestras seem too terrified to perform anything except what their rivals are scheduling for the month before or after.

Solti's programmes have not been revolutionary, but they made sense individually and as a series. Let us just hope that he will repeat the dose next season and that his colleagues in charge of other London symphony concerts will plan in a less come-sucking-fashion, especially Kemppe, Karajan and Harnick. Concerts ought to be exciting, not predictable.

Solti ended his LPO series with Mahler's second symphony. He has conducted it often and

recorded a gorgeous interpretation for the Gramophone. This might have ranked as just another winning repeat, but it wasn't.

Solti has the special quality of every great interpreter that he can reproduce a long, thoughtful interpretation as if he had only just discovered how the piece should go. With Mahler's second symphony he works the miracle by doing exactly what the composer prescribed, because he knows precisely why Mahler bothered to mention particular wishes, and how they affect the impact of the entire symphony.

The long first movement was unfolded with stunning immediacy, maximum attack in the opening declamations, sumptuously yearning violin tone in the second subject, and so on. The *Ländler* second movement, which Bruno Walter cosseted so deliciously, lopes along engagingly with Solti, even more sensibly, memory declares. The *Fish* Scherzo sparkles but digs deep.

Most of all this interpretation makes sense in the finale. In the bad old days when

Walter, or some other Mahler enthusiast, stuck his oar out and conducted the second symphony, so-called enlightened opinion responded automatically that the finale consisted of disparate trifles, ill-fung together. Solti welds the movements together quite naturally, with pauses when required, but seamlessly, bringing out the co-operative thought relating it (one believes by hindsight) to the earlier movements, and building the symphonic tension to the close so cogently, that, when the chorus sings "Sterben wirst du" and the final "Auferstehen", any tone-deaf person must join in, and any lapsed Christian believe again in the New Testament.

Not everything in Solti's performance is so good. Sunday was perfect, the off-stage brass band dropped a brick, some percussion effects were too loud, one acceleration worked against Mahler. For the rest it was a performance so cogently, that, when the chorus sings "Sterben wirst du" and the final "Auferstehen", any tone-deaf person must join in, and any lapsed Christian believe again in the New Testament.

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## London debuts

After a fine display of freshness and rhythmic acuity in a Scherzo from Prokofiev's Op 52, Gillian Spragg offered sensitive playing in the brief yet deeply etched vignettes of Schumann's *Waldszenen*; the secretive "Einsame Blumen" and "Vogel als Prophet" were especially touching. Brahms's *Klavierkonzert* Op 118 was more stringently organized, less impressionistic, but elicited an equally generous response, the phrasing relaxed yet fully motivated, the tone large and warm, particularly in the four Intermezzi where an acute feeling was evident for the composer's highly characteristic textures.

Jack Winercock unearthed less-conventional fare, in particular some music by Alexander Reinagle, who emigrated from London to America in 1784. His Sonata No 3 makes fluent use of late-eighteenth-century conventions, but, despite Dr Winercock's beautifully judged performance, nothing personal emerged from these passive echoes of Europe. They were instead obliterated by Charles Griffes's fiercely incantatory Sonata, published in 1921, a classic of US music. Here, too, the pianist displayed an easy agility, made a lovely sound, and then went on to show himself equally at home with the blues-inflected melodies and

pleasingly agitated rhythms of Gershwin's *Preludes*.

Though now half a century old, Bartók's Piano Sonata is still a pugnacious work, and it suited Evelyn Brancart excellently, not least because she has the athletic technique to present its abrasively elliptical arguments with conviction. A large and well-varied group of études, from Chopin to Stravinsky, confirmed her virtuosity, accomplished but also left her doubt of her musicality. Thus Liszt's Paganini Etude No 6 was all hard, clear brilliance, yet Miss Brancart also got close to the poetic heart of his *La Ricordanza*. She exultantly negotiated the wide stretches of Chopin's Op 10 No 1 but was equally attuned to some fleeting, elusive pieces from Scriabin's Op 8.

Later in the week Miss Brancart returned with her husband, the violinist Atar Arad, who, in a G minor Sonata of Bach, displayed a big tone, an impressive ease of movement, and an intelligent feeling for line. As twentieth-century classics we had Stravinsky's *Elégie*, a dry, grating little piece, and Rindfleisch's Sonata Op 11. This received the manifestly affectionate performance it deserved, yet one that was alive to all the music's implications. For nineteenth-century non-

classics we heard a Sonata and a caprice by Vieuxtemps. The spectacle of Mr Arad sailing over all their virtuosic hurdles with such ease provided ideal pleasure, but this quickly palliated because the actual ideas were so commonplace. A Paganini Sonata had a stronger impulse, yet so gifted a player as Mr Arad could well have devised a weightier programme there are major

Much lovely singing was heard from Patricia Price, whose mezzo-soprano voice was absolutely firm, clear, and used to exceptionally wide range of colour and dynamics with great expressiveness. Liszt's *Die Lorelei* was an especially good example of performance shaped by sound instincts by intelligent study, and the repertoire offered was uncommonly interesting. Renk Badings's Vier Wiegengesänge were engaging in their cool astringency, and it was nice to find that Jaquino Rodriguez has composed other things beside the perennial *Concierto de Aranjuez*. His *Quatro Madrigales Amatorios* being pleasingly sultry. Granada's *La Maja y el Ruiseñor*, too, was sung with beautifully tempered force, and I was even able, for once, to enjoy some of Samuel Barber's *Hermit Songs*, regressive though they are. Paul Hamburger accompanied.

of the show, which has just been successfully restaged in New York.

Tickets, priced £1 to £10, are available for the gala from Save London's Theatres Campaign, 8 Harley Street, London, W.1.

## Caval opera marries with

Bound by Idleness Radio 3

Alan Blyt

Both the Opera's *Ilia* Lucia Popp flout minute from Sunday, and ad heads the Coliseum evening had such a mangled oo-sag with sug and Mod so often I provided performance.

deed, you c asked for a simpler acco lusinghieri" by Miss Pop

A similar filled Patricia Howlett's slay Dido and Aen imagined do

Bowed by morning, Jan ambitious, the wedding thef La Didoe, same ground

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part to the t his own sece which enclh Such a st

to be recomi use, but in t own validly, fully expres: recitative, fin Anne Ridel, parison and cell's. In seve Cavalli sets predicaments Cessandra's r Corebous, who means the a its short-h phrases, He nouncements, drama of Cl above all A retentive whi who he claimd the i style and Mi instrument e overlook the oarration.

Baroque Puccelli's wor has been less conv Dido and Belinda apar

Some of th page are yesterday's

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The slow, r variations on scarcely less here, too, ac just proportio problem with both players the condense composer's results io so taken from a typically cold, rainy London morning and abruptly plunged into this world of acutely expressive tensions, but the La Salle String Quartet's live yet sonorous performance quickly made the music seem more real than the weather.

The Fugue which follows is a remarkable piece of contrapuntal virtuosity and was played with a lucid aggression that oiledly balanced the Adagio's slow-moving stresses.

Lucidity is not a quality that our old friend, the man in the street, much associates with Schoenberg, yet the La Salle ensemble have been performing his quartets for some years and have attained a security to these exceedingly difficult works that is still rare. The first move

ment of the paced, specd the crucial th the real and complex stt veyed.

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for Theatres Trust

A gala preview of the Jerome Kern musical *Very Good Eddie* will be held at the Piccadilly

## Theatre on Friday

to launch the 2500th appeal to establish the Theatres Trust. Dame Margot Fonteyn and Mr Hugh Jenkins, Minister for the Arts, will be in the audience for the preview

## of the show, which has just

been successfully restaged in New York.

Tickets, priced £1 to £10, are available for the gala from Save London's Theatres Campaign, 8 Harley Street, London, W.1.

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Illustration showing a hand holding a pencil and a ruler, with a string tied around the pencil and a weight hanging from it.

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Photograph by Trevor Sutton

It was first published by Paddington Press in 1974, and the bumper Corgi paperback edition will reach the shops on March 26, price £2.95. *Rules of the Game* covers more than 1500 sports, 400 events, and has 2,500 clear and informative coloured illustrations.

Packing so much into 320 pages must mean that the text sticks to basics, so you will not find the finer points of many activities described in any detail. But as a book for spectators it is an unbeatable cracker of arguments.

**Below : Skating jumps explained in Rules of the Game**

## Flour power

Wholewheat or wholemeal flour is usually ground from English cereal which is low in gluten content. This means you get a closer texture, which can be very attractive in certain cases. Whole flour is usually

## Honeycake

To measure honey in a recipe like this, make a bed of the brown sugar in the scale pan and spoon the honey on top, then slide both into the sancepan. Otherwise, approximately 1 rounded tablespoon of honey weighs 2oz.

**Makes 24 pieces**

5oz butter ;  
4oz soft brown sugar ;  
6oz clear honey ;  
1 tablespoon water ;  
2 eggs ;  
7oz self raising wholewheat  
flour ;  
Flaked almonds to decorate.

Measure the butter, sugar, honey and water into a saucepan. Place over low heat and stir until the butter has melted and ingredients are blended. Draw the pan off the heat and allow to cool until the hand can be comfortably held against the side of the pan.

Beat the eggs very thoroughly one at a time. Add the self raising wholewheat flour all at once and mix with a wooden spoon until smooth. Pour into a greased and lined oblong baking tin of about 11 x 7 inches or a small roasting tin. Sprinkle the surface with flaked almonds.

Place in the centre of a moderate oven (350°F or gas 4) and bake for 30-35 minutes or until the boneycake is well risen and firm to the touch. Remove from the tin and allow to cool then cut in squares.

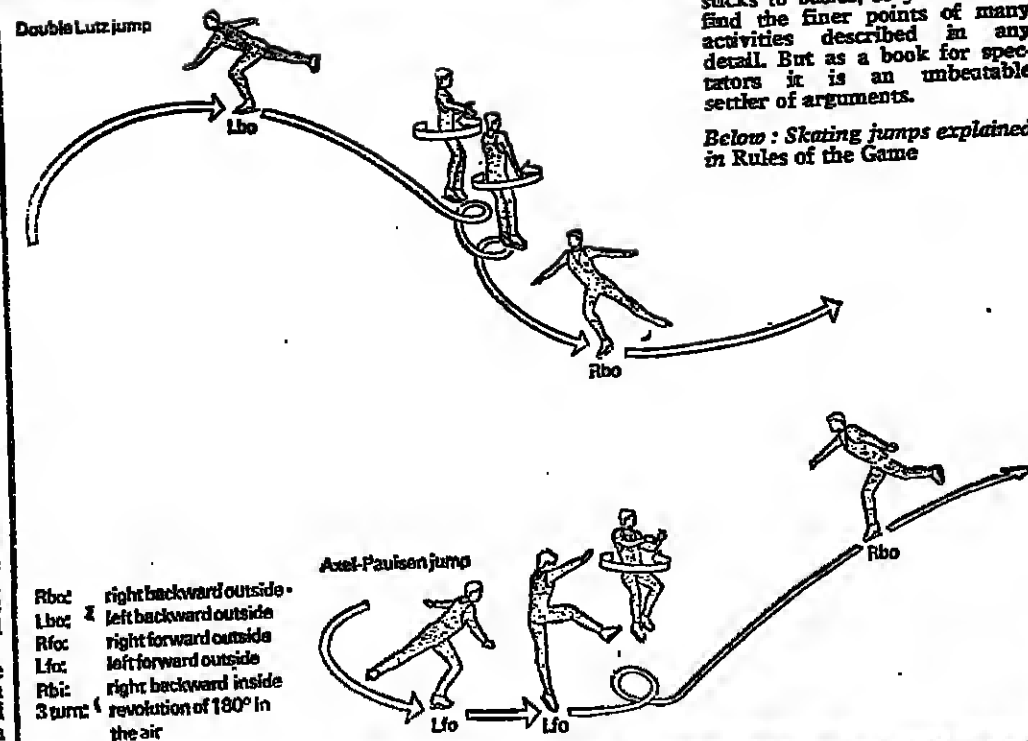
think can be found in stone-ground wholemeal wheat flour, the answer is to go to a shop like Cranks—a health food shop in Marshall Street, London—and just look at the bakery section. Cranks uses nothing but 100 per cent stone-ground wholemeal flour in everything it makes. The flour used in the bakery is also sold on the premises. Called Pimble, it is an organically grown stone-ground wholemeal wheat flour which is available plain and with a rising agent added.

Crank's makes old fashioned rock cakes and jam buns with wholewheat flour; yeast risen wholewheat baps split and filled with egg and cress or cheese; a delicious apricot slice which consists of cooked apr-

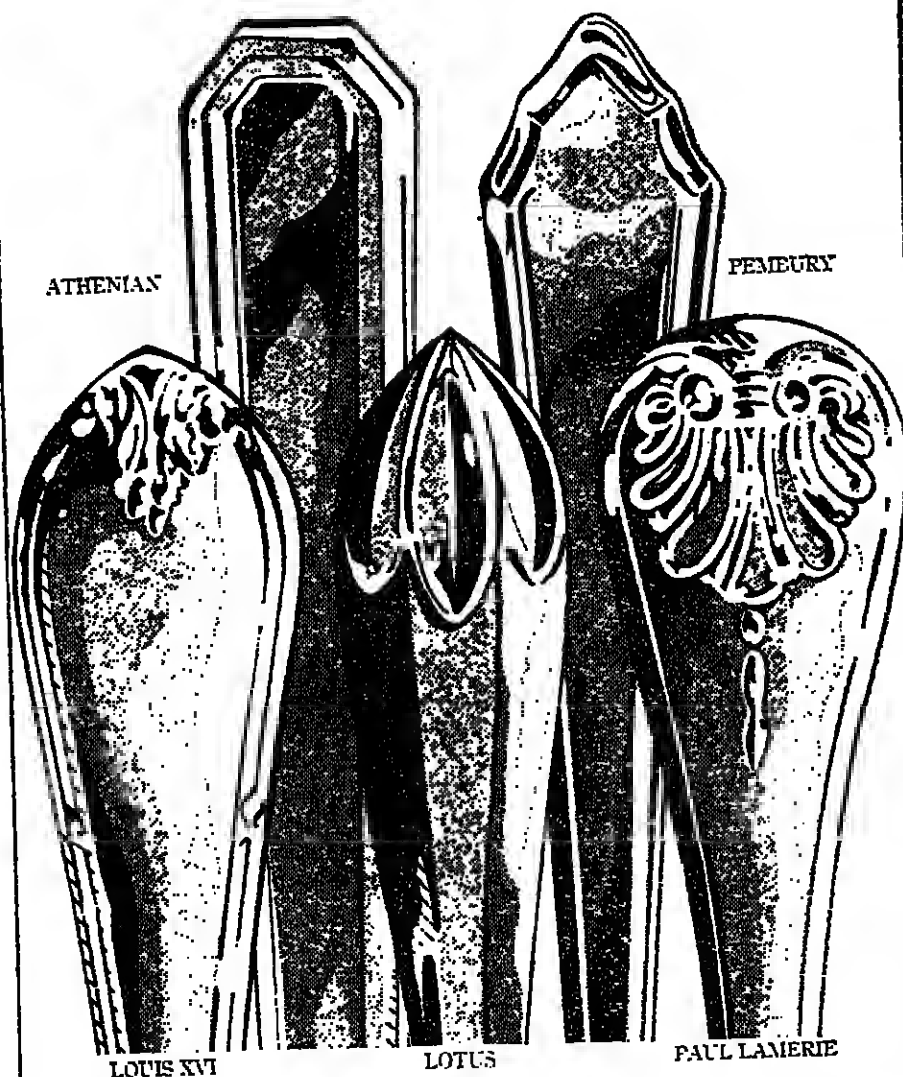
which consists of cooked apricots baked with a wholemeal crumble top and bottom; and a wholemeal shortbread which is very popular.

The pastry for Cranks' jam tarts and pies, notably the

If you ask, Cranks will give you the recipe for its wholewheat bread, which is based on the famous Grant loaf, and I recommend the cheese bread which I was told, is a basic wholewheat bread dough with cracked cheese added to the mixture.



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10. Mapping & Notes, 1702-1800

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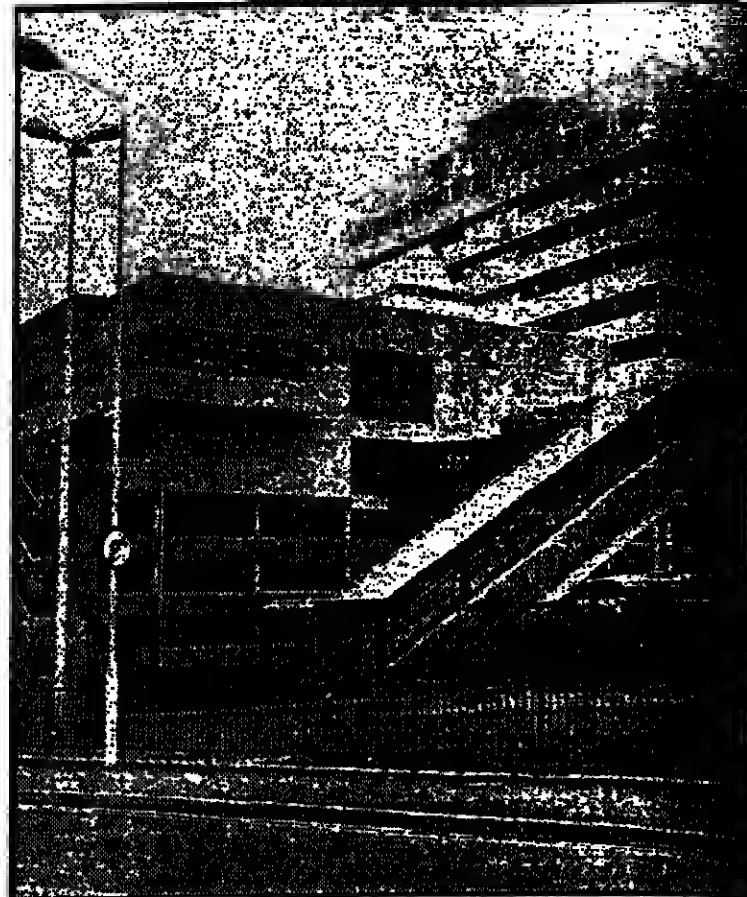












## From nineteenth-century village to successful second generation new town

by John Young

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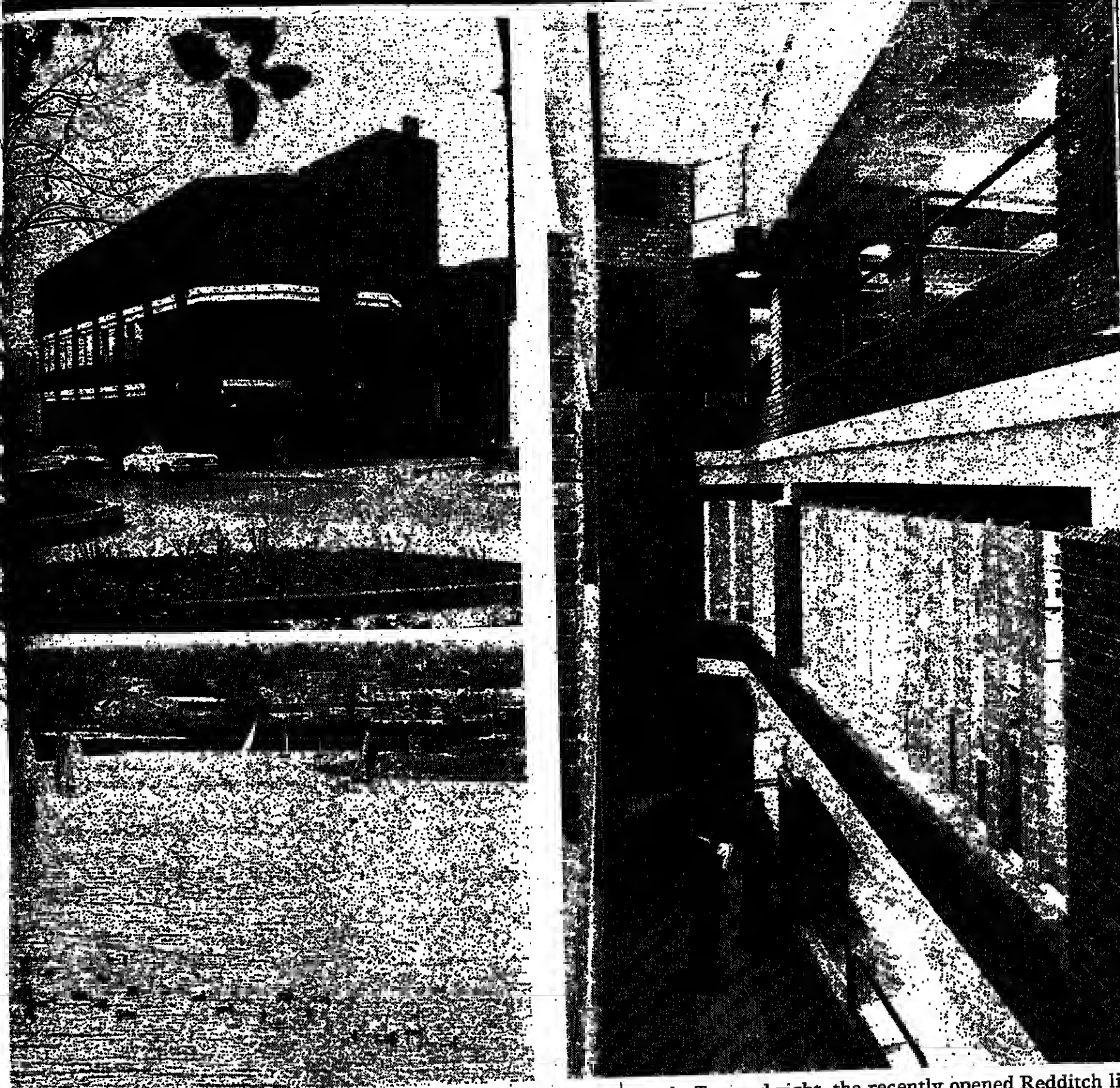
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Rapports T

## ADVERTISEMENTS

## Redditch—Development Continues on Schedule

Date palms imported from Spain form a novel and attractive focal point in the Worcester Square area of town centre redevelopment with its enclosed, air-conditioned environment.





ing on the Arrow Valley lake, part of the town's 700-acre recreation park. Top and right, the recently opened Redditch lib- designed by the John Madin Design Group, incorporates a series of inter-connecting spaces on 10 levels, linked by steps.

## Spacious scale makes public transport vital

It comes in transport, which has a distinct advantage in being able to use the town's 700-acre recreation park. The town's 700-acre recreation park, designed by the John Madin Design Group, incorporates a series of inter-connecting spaces on 10 levels, linked by steps.

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## Industry quietly satisfied

by Geoffrey Hancock

The old and the new in industrial Redditch are leaping to live together. A classic example of change in harmony is provided by the firm of Herbert Terry and Sons, a name as synonymous with old Redditch as it is with the new. Last year, John Terry, then managing director of the firm and his cousin, Raymond, both grandsons of the founder and each 34 years of age, moved out to start a business on their own account, taking with them the manufacturing rights and assets of the Anglepoise lighting range.

Some 40 members of the Terry lighting production staff went with them. It was out of a cask of severing family connexions because in 1971 Terry was taken over by the Associated Spring Corporation of America. John and Raymond Terry left without a boardroom row but with an arrangement for Herbert Terry to supply certain components for the new operation. This plan, it is reported, is working well.

The new Anglepoise factory is on the Enfield estate, named after the Royal Enfield and its motorcycle activities, now defunct. In view of the decline of the British side of the motorcycle industry, Redditch considers itself fortunate to be involved in a new business, which must have better prospects, than two-wheelers made in Britain.

British Leyland's interest in Redditch is small at the moment, consisting of a modest car preparation facility for Leyland Cars on the Enfield estate. The long-projected occupation by Leyland Cars of office accommodation at Grosvenor House, at the top of Prospect Hill, is scheduled to take place this summer.

This use of part of the sales and marketing division of the town's 700-acre recreation park, which will compete in time and cost with the private car. If neither appeals, there is always Shank's pony: a network of footpaths will link the estates and may, in the end, prove quicker and certainly cheaper than either public or private transport.

J.Y. employment for 3,000 people, an engine and gear-

## Driving away shoppers' cars

Redditch town centre is about to put its motorist customers to the test. A new transport policy, which came into force at the end of last week, is designed to encourage the use of buses. It means that the private motorist will no longer be the pampered shopper of the new town's early days, and it spells the end of free parking for an initial period in the multi-storey car park. Even more ominous is the warning that ground level car parks in the town centre will be closed to their nor-

The squeeze is on against the very people who have given Redditch its reputation as a first class shopping centre. Clearly, the scheme of lower bus fares and more frequent services on local routes requires a big increase to the volume of passengers to succeed.

A denial that there is any intention of forcing people to use a particular means of transport does not disguise the fact that buses must win at the expense of the private car if the standard of the public services is to be maintained.

Random checks on three different days showed that more than 70 per cent of people in the shopping centre had got there by car. They enthused about the facility of pushing a full shopping trolley from the shops to the car in the multi-storey car park near by—all under cover.

A reduction in car parking generally could bring an influx of custom for the 520 car multi-storey car park in the point of utter chaos. After all, ground level car parks have a 10p charge (a day) which is the same for the multi-storey car park, as far as most shopping is concerned, at 10p for two hours.

The Transportation Steering Group's report makes it clear that action will be taken if any part of the transport package deal does not have the desired effect. Creating resistance among motorists could be undesirable.

### Appreciation of the services

It is a tribute to the Redditch Shopping Centre that the unofficial survey showed an appreciation of the services, even though much already provided brought the desire for more. The shopping complex comprises chiefly arcades, with regulated temperatures and real and effective palm trees incorporated into the decor, and an open-air market of its own. It already includes an extensive Sainsbury's supermarket and a recently opened Woolworth's, and W. H. Smith and Son are to open later this year.

Modern lighting and attractive display techniques help to make shopping a pleasure rather than a chore.

Twenty per cent of the shoppers interviewed came from more than 15 miles away, well outside the recognized catchment area. Mainly they had accompanied their husbands making business calls in Redditch because they liked the town's shopping.

Those from far and near gave either a "good" or "fair" rating to the standard of the Redditch shops. The need for a Marks & Spencer was emphasized with other establishments like British Home Stores getting a mention.

They could be in the Redditch Shopping Centre's phase 3, the first part of which is expected to open by Christmas, 1979. Another multi-storey car park is planned and this phase could also bring much needed improvements in restaurants and facilities which need more lavishly since simple lunches and lunchtime snacks form the greatest demand.

### Need for more places to sit

Both in the centre and in the adjoining bus station there is a need for more places where people can sit to comfort. I thought I had found the answer in the Swinging Sporan, the shopping centre's ion. Alas, it was not too swiveling as far as drinks were concerned. I asked for a glass of white wine. "We don't serve wine," I was told in a tone of voice that succeeded in persuading me from asking for anything else.

The Scottish and Newcastle Breweries have earned the widespread approval of beer drinkers by making draught beer available to all their bars and lounges, however luxurious. Perhaps they could help those who prefer the grape to the grain. The open-air market of the Redditch Shopping Centre found favourable comment even if it was not noted for its competitive prices. One stallholder drew a tremendous queue by selling potatoes at 10p a pound, while charged 12p and stood idle. It was definitely a less leader made up by a bit extra on the other vegetable lines.

On one of the balcony shops overlooking the open-

Some of the shops in the Kingfisher centre.

## Major companies already in Redditch

GKN Engineering Ltd.	Serck Services Ltd. (National Distribution Centre).
GKN Contractors Ltd.	
BKL Alloys Ltd.	
GKN Powder Met Ltd.	Hydrovac Compressors Co. Ltd.
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Marubeni Komatsu Ltd. (Japan).	Super Ser (Heaters) U.K. Ltd.
HALFORDS	BAGG The British Aluminium Co. Ltd.
HERBERT	Herbert Small Tool & Equip. Ltd.
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# A who's who for engineers in the postal ballot

technical details of his farming techniques.

"I am not the expert. I cannot run the whole thing, you know. I cannot come here and milk all these things by myself."

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*Macabre behaviour in the Orkneys, The Orcadian, the local paper, advertises for sale: "Austin A60 hearse: body requires attention."*

PHS

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PHS



THE TIMES  
New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## DATING OUT OF THE SNAKE

It is not the sort of who needs much help himself. It can, as he has assumed that he good as he got yesterday, when his fellow ministers questioned the role of sterling in the exchange market. The view is that the franc has fallen in no devaluation, because of sterling and with more than a suggestion last week's fall in the exchange market. The view is that the franc has fallen in no devaluation, because of sterling and with more than a suggestion last week's fall in the exchange market. The view is that the franc has fallen in no devaluation, because of sterling and with more than a suggestion last week's fall in the exchange market.

personal political reputation on the ability of the franc to "hold its own" with the German mark. European leaders, once again, hoped that the franc and the mark would be the nucleus of a developing monetary union, leading in turn to a closer political union. President Giscard, in his previous incarnation as finance minister, experienced at first hand most of the international monetary crises of the period since 1968 and was closely involved in the International Monetary Fund negotiations leading up to the general acceptance of floating exchange rates. It is surprising to the point of being incomprehensible that, with this experience, he should have chosen to place his reputation on such a forlorn hope as that the franc and the mark should long be able to float together against the dollar.

From this episode, two conclusions should be drawn. The first is that, although floating exchange rates are well suited to the volatile world economic situation in which we find ourselves, there is still need for international cooperation between monetary authorities. There is no justification from the events of the past ten days for saying that any major country has begun to indulge in competitive devaluation of the sort that was the French claim that the British are pushing sterling down in order to "export unemployment" has the

## WARNING ABOUT THE WEST'S DEFENCES

by a senior officer of armed forces has concluded that Warsaw Pact forces are capable of launching a surprise attack with conventional weapons within forty hours. This kind of study is unique in itself. Various tests of Soviet capabilities have been made over the years. It is among the most pessimistic. The Soviet advance, says the report, could be so rapid that 7,000 tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, always seen as an important factor in western defence, might never be needed. The American President made up his mind on the battlefield should go, it would be too late. The report, which is the most serious since the end of the Second World War, says that the Warsaw Pact forces are capable of launching a surprise attack within forty hours. This kind of study is unique in itself. Various tests of Soviet capabilities have been made over the years. It is among the most pessimistic. The Soviet advance, says the report, could be so rapid that 7,000 tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, always seen as an important factor in western defence, might never be needed.

that the Russians could throw twenty-seven divisions into the first wave of the attack, followed by sixty more within five or six days—which in fact is far from certain. Moreover, most important of all, it assumes that the Warsaw Pact would be able to achieve the essential element of surprise, despite western satellite surveillance. True, the Israelis failed to appreciate the significance of Arab military movements leading up to the October War in 1973, but this was one of the lessons of the October War which the West is not likely to forget so soon. The Russians, too, will have made worst-case assumptions, no doubt, in ending the West with capabilities that would astonish the most optimistic general at SHAPE.

Russians were to find themselves in the position of having such overwhelming military superiority in Europe that they could invade western Europe without risk they might, in some unpredictable future, situation, be tempted to do so. Even if they are not innately aggressive they tend to expand where they find a vacuum. It is therefore essential that western Europe should not offer them a vacuum on anything that might be taken for granted. This does not mean abandoning the policies loosely identified with the word détente. On the contrary, these policies depend absolutely on maintaining a balance of power. Only people who have misunderstood or misinterpreted them have suggested that they depend on trust, friendship or other intangibles. They do, of course, assume that both sides have an interest in stabilising the balance, preferably at a lower level, but this is to be tested by negotiation, not by unilateral action.

## MP's commitment to electors

From Sir Thomas Padmore  
Sir, We hear more and more about the promises which members of Parliament are held to have made in various ways to those who have elected them. May I say as an elector that the decisive promise which I regard as the most important is that the member should seek to secure the appointment of a Government from the party to which he belongs: and when that has been achieved will continue to support and sustain that Government, and not alone.

## Third World bonds with Russia

From Mr N. A. J. Philpott  
Sir, The Indian High Commissioner says (report, March 11) that the Soviet Union's anti-colonialism "first in word, then in deed" makes the newly independent world "much more sympathetic to the Eastern block than to the Western alliance". Would he kindly inform the (newly independent) world in his next lecture of the extent of the Soviet Union's anti-colonialism in Eastern Europe? Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS A. J. PHILPOTT, 13 Pickers Street, SW12.

## Administration of National Parks

From Lt Col Gerald Haythornthwaite  
Sir, Since the passing of the 1972 Local Government Act which gave undue control to county councils in eight of the ten National Parks, there have been numerous instances of direct interference by county councils in the decisions of National Park authorities to the detriment of the purposes for which National Parks were established. Also, in the case of one of the National Parks, the Peak District, where the county councils have no opportunity to intervene directly, pressure has been applied to county council members to have prior regard to the interests of the county councils.

## Administration of National Parks

An attempt was made by Derbyshire County Council recently to remove one of their appointed councillors from the Peak Park Planning Board because he was considered too conservative minded. Although this attempt was defeated by a High Court action, Derbyshire County Council are now canvassing the other constituent county councils in the Peak District to press the Secretary of State to revise the Order establishing the Peak Park Joint Planning Board to allow them to replace members appointed by them if they do not vote the county line. South Yorkshire County Council have also agreed to support Derbyshire County Council. The leader of South Yorkshire County Council has proclaimed that "if someone does not follow the policies of the body which appointed him he should be removed".

It should be abundantly plain to the county councils that the National Park authorities are not to plan and manage the National Parks according to the statute for the benefit of the nation. The nation, through the Exchequer, now bears the greater proportion of the cost of planning and managing National Parks. It follows therefore that the nation's interests in National Parks should be appropriately secured. This can only be done by affording National Parks the autonomy enjoyed by the Peak District and Lake District Parks and ensuring that the county council appointees to National Park authorities are not in peril of being replaced if they do not vote the county council line. It is for consideration also whether there should be a greater proportion of Secretary of State appointees to National Park authorities, at present two-thirds of the membership are appointed by the county councils and one-third by the Secretary of State.

I am Sir, your obedient servant, GERALD HAYTHORNTHWAITE, Chairman, Standing Committee on National Parks, 4 Hobart Place, SW1, March 9.

Broadcasting Parliament  
From Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen  
Sir, Along with very many other members of the public I deeply regret the steady inexcusable progress of the plot to abolish the House of Commons, and even receive the daily proceedings of Parliament in both Houses.

Tragically the decision appears to rest with the politicians themselves who have for so long kidded themselves that they were the masters of their own destiny, and that their sparring with each other, which is the simple truth is that people in general are bored and fed up with the "in game" of politics, so much of which seems to have little to do with the business of governing the country.

For a long time a brilliant, clear and succinct summary of the proceedings in Parliament has been provided on radio, both late at night and early in the morning. There is presented most professionally the essence of the main proceedings of the day, which are most adequately condensed into fifteen minute minutes. So Sir I beg the powers that be to let well alone as we now have it, remembering the true maxim "le mieux est l'ennemi du bien". I believe that the main proceedings will only harm the image of Parliament and its members. Yours faithfully, BERNARD WALEY-COHEN, 60 Cheapside, EC2, March 15.

'Dear Reverend'  
From Mr Arthur Bond  
Sir, As a boy in a solicitor's office I was taught that a clergyman one knew and liked was addressed as "Dear Vicar" or "Dear Rector". If one disliked him or did not know him well enough to form a view one said "Reverend Sir" unless his help was needed in which case one said "Dear and Reverend Sir". It seemed to work very well. At home at the name callers who asked "Is the Reverend in?" were usually gentlemen who had already been to the Presbytery but decided that, on this one occasion, and strictly off the record, they would like a second opinion. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR BOND, 5 Lincolns Road, Wetherby, March 12.

From Mr Peter du Sautoy  
Sir, I learnt from T. S. Eliot, the poetest of men, that letters to clergymen one does not know personally should begin "Reverend Sir". Yours faithfully, PETER DU SAUTOY, Chairman, Faber and Faber Ltd, 3 Queen Square, WC1, March 12.

From Mr T. H. Stewart  
Sir, I did not have the pleasure of hearing Mr. E. K. Nehru's address at the Lang Memorial Lecture in person, but assume that your interesting account of it on March 11 is essentially correct.

It would be an issue with Mr Nehru on number of points. The first is the relative underdevelopment of Russia in relation to the West (presumably represented by Germany, Austria, France, the United Kingdom and the United States in this context). Modern historians, I gather, now tend to the view that the difference between all these countries in 1914 was a good deal less than had been previously supposed. Imperial Russia had quite a reasonably developed infrastructure and substantial industrial capacity—approximately equivalent perhaps to the condition of the United States just after the Civil War, some 50 years earlier. You quote Mr Nehru as saying: "The West has so totally forgotten its poverty, and it is so immeasurably richer, that it seems almost incapable of understanding, at least emotionally, the problems, attitudes and feelings of the Third World."

The reason why Russia is different is that it is still essentially a poor country, and the interesting question is why the gap between the progress of a vanquished state to international hegemony, without regard to how its power and wealth are used, that excites the admiration he spoke of, one might point out that Hitler's Germany achieved the same metamorphosis in less than half the time. As for Soviet anti-colonialism, has Mr Nehru never asked himself how it is that the Russian Empire, within its nineteenth-century frontiers, still survives in all those vast expanses of Asia to the north and northwest of his own country, whether, had it not been for the interposition of a somewhat less enduring form of colonialism, that country, in whole or in part, might today be the Indostanski SSR? Yours faithfully, J. S. F. PARKER, Department of History, University of York, Heslington, York.

A second controversial point is

## Britain and Rhodesia

From Colonel J. R. Hall  
Sir, I am writing this letter not in the expectation that you will print it but in order that it may contribute to the evidence you have of growing dissatisfaction with the Government's Rhodesian policy, of which I am a vocal supporter. Mr McCleery (March 10), apportioning the blame for the tragedy of Rhodesia, has said: "The fault is ours." It is, indeed, and there is little I would add to his perceptive letter beyond this corollary: that it is not Mr McCleery's "intransigence" which has bedevilled the policy of successive British Governments: it is their own obduracy and insensibility (reminiscent of an earlier government's response to the UDI of their day) in dealing with a colony which was quarrelling with and in particular their clinging to every detail of the original five principles (to themselves an honourable and even a noble expression of idealism) after events in Africa had proved that that they needed to be overhauled and replaced, with the imposition of sanctions (which have benefited the West's enemies), were not enough, our present Government, having long condoned terrorism against Rhodesia, are, in effect, now subsidizing

representatives of a Dutch humanitarian delegation and of the International Human Rights Federation, that Kurdish schools are being closed gradually and systematically all over Iraq, and that the Arab schools are replacing them. 4. The offer of financial incentives for mixed marriages between Arabs and Kurds was announced by the Minister of Education in a speech at the opening of the University of Baghdad, September 1975. The KDP is not of course opposed to mixed marriages as such, and nor we feel sure is The Times. But it should be obvious that in present circumstances the offer of financial incentives is likely to arouse racial hatred rather than to allay it. We note however that the ambassador does not deny the inhuman mass deportations from Kurdistan (a name he avoids using, preferring to call our land "the north") to the southern deserts, in the course of which hundreds of women and children have died from exposure. Such actions are clearly not directed only against a small group of Kurdish dissidents, but against the whole Kurdish nation and the survival of its culture. Yours sincerely, J. ALLI, Kurdistan Democratic Party, International Relations Committee, PO Box 129, 00170 Helsinki 17, Finland.

'The Kurds pay the price'  
From Mr J. Ali  
Sir, We appreciate that the task of representing the Iraqi Baath regime in a civilized country is not an easy one but we feel obliged to correct the Iraqi ambassador's letter to you (March 11) on the following points: 1. There is no exclusively Kurdish channel on Iraqi television. The Kurdish programmes in Kurdish which were broadcast during the fighting have only been cut by 75 per cent, and what is offered is pure propaganda of the Baath regime. 2. The Kurds do not "have two dailies" in Iraq, *Hawari* is not a daily but a weekly propaganda organ published by the Ministry of Information. (The name, incidentally, does not mean "citizen" as the ambassador suggests, but "co-operation"). The Arabic paper *Al-Taqi*, published by the Kurdish Quisling minister Mr Aziz Aqrabi, was closed down last month. Mr Aqrabi, who had been so unwise as to be overheard deploring the deportation of so many of his fellow Kurds to the south, may not have been officially dismissed from the government. He has simply disappeared, as other more prominent figures in the Baath regime have done before him. 3. It has been reported by many observers, in particular by repre-

Imports of newsprint  
From Mr A. J. Pettitt  
Sir, I hope that it will not pass unnoticed by your readers that as reported in The Times today (March 13), an immediate ban on newsprint imported from "non-traditional" countries has been "announced" by the General Secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades; not, as one would have expected, by her Majesty's Government. Leaving aside this attempted usurpation of power properly belonging elsewhere, and the colossal impudence of Sogat, this policy "written large" would surely

## Farm tenancies

From Mr W. E. Cave  
Sir, The Agriculture Bill now before Parliament will give a legal right to certain relatives to inherit the tenancy of a farm—albeit with some safeguards to ensure a reasonable degree of competence. Those entitled to inherit include adopted sons or daughters but make no mention of a common-law wife or natural children. Thus an elderly tenant farmer without children could ask for and no doubt obtain a considerable sum for adopting a well qualified young farmer. This, however, is a minor point. The more important is whether the new law will completely dry up the number of farms becoming available to let as in fact the Rent Acts have already done with houses to let. This is already happening. Some landowners are closing their farms to limited companies to which they hold 51 per cent of the shares so that they can wind up the company if and when they wish to do so and thus get vacant possession of the farm. This is a system of share farming practised in many parts of the United States.

If we want an efficient low-cost agriculture we should remove some of the restraints which retard development and the most serious of these is the present law on tenancies which automatically turns a lease for a fixed term of years into an annual tenancy. This discourages landlords from letting a farm to a tenant (in some cases the tenant has not got a 51 per cent interest). If a fixed term lease were possible I am sure it would be much easier for an individual efficient farmer or farming companies to expand and squeeze out the inefficient whereas the proposals in the new Bill will have the reverse effect.

The Kurds do not "have two dailies" in Iraq, *Hawari* is not a daily but a weekly propaganda organ published by the Ministry of Information. (The name, incidentally, does not mean "citizen" as the ambassador suggests, but "co-operation"). The Arabic paper *Al-Taqi*, published by the Kurdish Quisling minister Mr Aziz Aqrabi, was closed down last month. Mr Aqrabi, who had been so unwise as to be overheard deploring the deportation of so many of his fellow Kurds to the south, may not have been officially dismissed from the government. He has simply disappeared, as other more prominent figures in the Baath regime have done before him. 3. It has been reported by many observers, in particular by repre-

Tax relief for commuters  
From Mr G. J. K. Widgery  
Sir, I would be interested to know whether many people feel, as I do, that it is time the Chancellor modified the relevant tax provisions so that the Inland Revenue will be able to give some relief to the hard pressed taxpayer towards the ever rising cost of commuting to work by means of the public transport services, or such of them as are still available. Many people in the larger urban areas have to travel substantial distances to and from their homes to their places of work, and the annual cost of this essential expenditure is now a serious burden and plays a large part in building up pressure for wage increases. In my view, it is both logical and reasonable that the essential cost of travelling to and from work should now be allowed as a deduction against gross incomes for tax purposes. This would benefit all sections of the working population, and would afford a little encouragement to those on whose efforts the prosperity of this country depends. Yours faithfully, G. J. K. WIDGERY, 4 St Paul's Churchyard, EC4.

## Fish Conservatives

Mr John D. Lamond  
Sir, In his article on March 11 my friend has set out some very pertinent points regarding the Scottish Conservative Party, as statements concerning the party's position on the Young Conservatives were erroneous. He said that, "Among the Conservatives in Scotland is not only a strong preference for devolution, but also a preference for a strong form of devolution", as very much mistaken. The Scottish Conservative policy of devolution is formulated by the party's executive committee, and is not a matter of public policy. The party's policy is one of union, but the general feeling is, and at grass roots level strongly anti-devolutionary. I am among the Scottish Young Conservatives is formulated by the party's executive committee, and is not a matter of public policy. The party's policy is one of union, but the general feeling is, and at grass roots level strongly anti-devolutionary. I am among the Scottish Young

Party have come round to the realization that the evils of an assembly outweigh any advantages which it may have. Last year some 18 delegates out of 500 present at the Dundee conference voted against devolution; this year, at a meeting of the Scottish Conservative Party's Central Council, which consists of party members appointed by Mrs Thatcher and their constituencies, the assembled populace voted 103 to 60 for devolution. This vote was from those party members one would most expect to vote the party line. I and other members of the party believe that the conference in Perth in May and the SYC conference in Falkirk in April will both vote resolutely against a directly elected Scottish Assembly. Yours faithfully, JOHN D. LAMOND, 6 Wilson Street, Perth, March 12.

## Abortion and birth rate

From Mr and Mrs N. Jessup  
Sir, Professor J. Scarisbrick, in his report on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill (The Times, March 9) has attempted to confuse two very different issues. Few people would deny that abortion raises ethical questions which require careful consideration. But this is a quite distinct matter from that of the falling population. He argues that abortion will be the principal cause of a "population crisis" in the next millennium. A more reasoned approach to the available facts demonstrates that this is not so. The post-war boom led to a situation in which the working population was consistently increasing and consequently could support the resulting expansion of the "non-productive" population which followed. In a country which produces only a fraction of its food and energy

requirements it is self-evident that such a condition must eventually end by one means or another. Just as it is inevitable that a baby boom must end, it follows that when it does the proportion of elderly people will increase for some years. The longer a nation indulges in this pyramid demography the more severe are the effects of its eventual collapse. What is most worrying about Professor Scarisbrick's evidence is his proposal to restrict the birth rate (which does not necessarily mean a declining population) is a direct reflection of the desire of women to control it and when they have children. There is no justification on demographic grounds for singling out abortion in this respect, and there are strong genetic arguments against it.

Professor Scarisbrick's own figures demonstrate that the birth rate continues to decline, despite the falling number of abortions. He must recognize that if he seeks to "control" women to bear children against their expressed wish, prohibiting abortion will not produce the desired effect. If this nation wishes to curb the decline in the birth rate it must do so by creating conditions in which women choose to have sufficient children to maintain a stable population, preferably smaller than at present. Professor Scarisbrick and his organization are opposed to abortion for moral reasons and they should be prepared to let their case stand or fall on this basis. Yours sincerely, WENDY JESSUP, NORMAN JESSUP, Ashted, Church Lane, Baslow, Derbyshire.







**AING**  
tomorrow's  
LDING, CIVIL  
INDUSTRIAL  
ENGINEERING

## clear power key points to ure shortage of minum supplies

Vielvoys  
respondent  
ing of "formidable  
in ensuring there is  
minimum to fuel the  
of nuclear power  
ext 25 years is given  
nt report by the  
on for Economic  
n and Development's  
Soerby Agency and  
ernational Atomic  
gency.

injuries basing their  
energy strategy on  
from nuclear reac-  
report provides a di-  
cture. While known  
are adequate to sup-  
nuclear power, pro-  
for the next 10 to 15  
says shortages could  
at the end of the

severe problems might  
the longer term, the  
year because of the en-  
dustrialized countries  
ng on nuclear power  
electricity develop-  
programmes.

of the pessimism in  
port arises from a sur-  
car power programmes  
Nuclear Energy Agency  
tows that between 1990  
0 the amount of nu-  
clarity could more than

t the demands on  
roduction facilities,  
litions to reserves  
t triple within the  
years. Efforts to  
oration would be  
e industry adopted  
t effort, the report

s the only primary  
ce where the  
e classed according  
t of extraction. After  
fold increase in oil  
xtracoe costs of \$15  
have replaced \$10 a  
the upper limit for  
reserves.

push the figure to  
to 1,060,000  
ompared with 850,000  
a 1973. But, the report  
ere will be a require-  
for four million tonnes  
0) and about 10 million  
by 2025. Even in all  
low-grade higher costs  
ces were added to the  
these long-term targets  
not be met.

report says there is no

consensus of opinion  
whether 10 million tonnes  
of uranium which could  
be economically exploited.

Exploration and exploration  
technology should be expanded  
as rapidly as possible and if  
this were done there would be  
a reasonable expectation of  
successful discoveries being  
made to provide the required  
tonnage.

But, because of the risk of  
an eventual uranium shortage,  
the development of the  
breeder reactor and thermal  
reactors that use less fuel,  
should be encouraged.

One of the biggest chal-  
lenges will be financing the  
required exploration develop-  
ment and construction effort  
"particularly against the back-  
ground of a frequently unpre-  
dictable relationship between  
financial sources and potential  
producer countries at all stages  
of development."

At 1975 prices, \$20,000m will  
be required for exploration up  
to the year 2000 and a similar  
sum for mining and milling  
developments. The decline in  
the uranium industry between  
1970 and 1974 has not helped  
to build the confidence neces-  
sary for mining companies and  
utilities to make the large-scale  
investments in uranium exploration  
and development that will be  
required.

Electricity utilities may have  
to finance exploration and de-  
velopment, and the report pre-  
dicts closer collaboration in  
exploration to power produc-  
tion.

Uranium prices have firmed  
since the 1973-74 oil crisis as  
consumers have tried to assure  
their future supplies. From be-  
hind \$12 a pound to \$13 a pound  
after the crisis, prices rose to  
about \$20 per pound by the  
middle of last year.

There is no longer any sur-  
plus capacity in the industry  
and surplus stocks have been  
eliminated. The report says  
that price structure and re-  
wards over the next decades  
are likely to be attractive.

Present annual demand for  
natural uranium is 18,000  
tonnes, rising to 50,000 tonnes  
by 1990 and 100,000 tonnes in  
1985.

\* Uranium Resources, Produc-  
tion and Demand, OECD, Paris,  
\$7.00 or £3.10.

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## French employers and unions depressed by floating franc

From Richard Wigg  
Paris, March 15

France's principal employers' organization, Patronat, today blamed "a lack of sufficient solidarity" by France's partners in observing the Rambouillet monetary agreement for causing the Government's decision to float the franc.

The employers' body said it regarded leaving the European snake as this "inevitable", but obviously did not like it and expressed the hope the floating would only be of short duration.

The Patronat's reaction was one of several by French business circles which were gloomy and saw the exporters' advantages as doubtful while the disadvantages were more obvious.

President Giscard d'Estaing's decision to reject the snake last July, which M Jean Pierre Fourcade, France's finance minister, objected to then has in the past aroused reservations in business circles owing to its obvious political motivation.

As the Markets closed today the franc was floating at between 3 and 4 per cent below

its value last Friday, having fallen to 5 per cent earlier in interbank transactions.

The dollar closed at 4.705 francs, against 4.555 last Friday and the mark at 1.835 francs against 1.764. The pound in early trading was exchanging at 3.155 francs against 3.15 and Friday but came down to 9.965 as markets closed.

While experts said they reckoned it would take some days, even longer, before the market positions became clear, forecasts were for 1.80 francs to the Deutsche mark and 4.80 to the dollar.

President Giscard d'Estaing will be seeing M Pourcade on his return from Brussels tomorrow morning together with M Bernard Clappier, the governor of the Banque de France.

The French Socialist Trade Union Confederation today vigorously attacked floating the franc, describing it as a devaluation "hours after the national elections" which would not help employment opportunities in France.

regards the joint float as an important starting point for European economic and monetary union.

Dr Grunewald disclosed that West Germany had been prepared to revalue the mark as part of a general correction of currency relationships within the snake. Although he did not give details, he made it clear that the scale of revaluation offered was very modest.

In private, government officials were clearly relieved that the crisis had apparently passed without a formal mark revaluation. The decision of the French government to leave the currency block, although regrettable from a European standpoint, was seen as less of a threat to Germany's export prospects.

Herr Otto Schlecht, state secretary at the Economics Ministry, was understood this afternoon to tell his EEC colleagues in Brussels that the French measures in their pre-

sent form should not impair the chances for an upswing in the German economy.

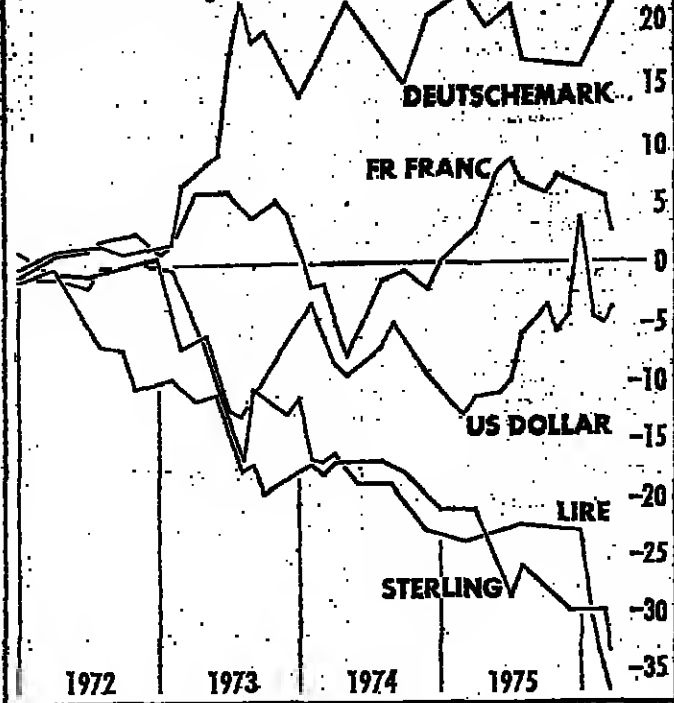
The West German Private Banking Association echoed the thoughts of many when it described the French departure as a "lesser evil" than a revaluation of the mark. The German Industry Federation in Cologne also declared that the decision to take the franc temporarily out of the snake was "certainly better."

On the foreign exchange

# THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

## HOW CURRENCIES HAVE MOVED

changes in the effective rates since 21 Dec '71  
(the Smithsonian Agreement)



## Council fund to take equity stakes in local firms

By Richard Allen

What might be the first grass roots equity un-  
veiled to local industry yes-  
terday by Sir Ron Ironmonger,  
leader of South Yorkshire  
County Council.

The plan involves the coun-  
cil's pension fund offering to  
invest in local industry to the  
tune of £2m in return for equity  
stakes in small but sound com-  
panies based in the region.

The scheme is the brainchild  
of Sir Ron—one of the three  
council-appointed trustees of  
the county superannuation fund  
—and will be run by the  
Labour-controlled council ad-  
vised by County Bank, the mer-  
chant banking arm of National  
Westminster Bank.

The project, to be called the  
County Regional Investment  
Scheme, represents around 5  
per cent of the county's fund,  
and the council envisages in-  
vestment being made available  
to companies earning perhaps  
£50,000 a year before tax.

"I think this will be the first  
example of direct invest-  
ment in profitable indus-  
try. It means that the small  
companies in the South York-  
shire area with ambitious profit-  
able schemes for growth, giving  
prospects for employing more  
men and women, will have an  
additional means of bringing  
their schemes to fruition."

Mr D. R. Chynoweth, the  
county treasurer, said that all  
proposals for investment would  
be on strictly commercial basis,  
and no loans would be made on  
political grounds.

Investment would not involve  
taking a majority stake in the  
company. The fund's holding  
should be large enough to ensure  
that the views of the fund's  
advisers are taken fully into  
account by the board of directors.

According to the treasurer,  
no companies have been singled  
out for cash injections so far,  
though "the local chambers of  
commerce are very enthusiastic."

Under the scheme, the county  
council will identify suitable  
companies and leave the  
County Bank to assess the  
viability of subsequent pro-  
posals for either straight loans  
or equity stakes.

Asked why sound companies  
should not be able to obtain  
adequate financing through  
existing banking facilities, Mr  
Chynoweth said that the fund's  
advisers believed several poten-  
tially strong companies could  
"slip through this net."

He added that the scheme  
would definitely not involve the  
superannuation fund and to support  
large ducks.

A spokesman for County  
Bank, which is among the  
advisers of the pension fund  
trustees said, however that re-  
latively few applications for  
aid were likely to be success-  
ful.

**Cheap Soviet oil  
for US 'unlikely'**  
Washington, March 15.—Mr  
Elliot Richardson, the Com-  
merce Secretary, said there was  
little chance of the Soviet Union  
selling oil to the United States  
at favourable prices. He said he  
was unsure whether the  
United States had formally  
asked the USSR to let it have  
oil at below the rates fixed by  
the Organization of Petroleum  
Exporting Countries.

Last October, the USSR and  
the United States agreed a  
supply line of 10 million tons  
per annum for a five-year  
period, but details of the deal  
were left outstanding. Negotia-  
tions resumed a few weeks ago  
in Washington and are con-  
tinuing.—Agence France-Press.

**Brentford Nylons link**  
By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Jeffrey Port, a Yorkshire-  
based organization which has  
specialized in the auctioning  
of low-price consumer durables at  
public halls, has made an un-  
usual sales deal with the  
Receivers of Brentford Nylons,  
the collapsed household tex-  
tiles group.

The Port organization, said  
yesterday that negotiations had  
been completed for the auc-  
tion of a wide variety of con-  
sumer durables into the 70  
Brentford Nylons shops.

A spokesman for the organi-  
zation said there would be low  
prices on branded goods, in-  
cluding hi-fi, electrical appli-  
ances and general household  
products. They would not be  
auctioned.

Mr Port, who was away yes-  
terday, seems to have suffi-  
ciently impressed the joint  
Receivers of Brentford Nylons,  
Mr Kenneth Cork and Mr John  
Naylor.

Apparently they regard the  
scheme as a pilot one although  
an agreement in principle has  
been reached to extend it if  
successful. Sales by the Port  
organization will at first be con-  
centrated at one Brentford shop at Crown  
Hill, Croydon.

Brentford will take a per cent-  
age of the Port takings.

## Concessions Land & Bill

Parliamentary Staff  
Government is to make  
changes to help  
development as the  
present Land Tax Bill  
rough Parliament.

It provides that liability  
tax can be deferred  
companies are carrying  
stantial development on  
a land.

ll, Paymaster General,  
ad when he moved the  
reading of the Bill last  
week that the deferred charge  
not become payable when  
development was disposed  
of sale or lease-back, but  
if the owner subsequently  
let the property or ceased to  
it for qualifying industrial  
possession.

Mr Dell said the amendments  
he made at later stages  
ld recognize the high inter-  
rates payable on loans to  
the land.

Timothy Raison, Opposi-  
tion spokesman for the Environ-  
ment, welcomed the amend-  
ments as helpful but could not  
use find a kind word for  
which he characterized as  
extable, nor for the Gov-  
ernment's general approach  
to the problem.

He said the amendments  
is approach had failed in  
and, he forecast, would  
s fall, like any total con-  
sumption scheme.

Parliamentary report, page 7

**Equities started the week firmly.**  
Gilt-edged securities got back early  
investors.

Sterling was down 25 points in  
4.9250. The "effective devalu-  
on" rate was 33.5 per cent.

**On other pages**  
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Financial Editor

## Sugar sales to Russia upset market

By Wallace Jackson  
Commodities Editor

Conflicting reports about the  
amount of raw sugar bought  
from the Philippines by the  
Soviet Union upset the London  
sugar market yesterday.

According to the government-  
owned Philippine Exchange  
Company, the sale totalled  
400,000 tonnes, as reported in  
Business News yesterday. But  
Proditora, the Soviet import  
and export organization, said  
that only 200,000 tonnes had  
been bought "and not a gramme more".

The London market had  
opened below Friday's after-  
noon's levels of £186 a long ton  
for May and £185 for August  
and the Moscow statement  
caused the market to slide still  
lower.

By mid-afternoon the two  
positions were at £180 per  
long ton in each case.

At the close, the May price  
was £181.40 and August was at  
£181.05, declines of .54 and  
.54 respectively.

The Proditora statement  
said that the Soviet Union had  
covered all its sugar needs for  
1976 with purchases from  
several countries, including  
India and other socialist coun-  
tries, and from the Philippines.

Gold rose 50 cents an ounce to  
\$134.00.  
SDR-£ was 1.13545 on Monday,  
while SDR-£ was 0.600161.  
Commodities: Reuters' index was  
at 1294.5 (previous 1273.1).  
Reports, pages 20 and 21

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SKF 20

## Support for \$1,300m EEC loans

Brussels, March 15.—Com-  
munity finance ministers today  
approved a \$1,300m (about  
£670m) loan package which it  
is raising on behalf of Italy and  
the Republic of Ireland to help  
cover their payments deficits.

A statement issued by the  
EEC Commission after the de-  
cision said the agreements for  
the bulk of the package would  
be signed by March 22. Of the  
total \$1,000m goes to Italy and  
the rest to Ireland.

The commission will sign the  
following contracts with groups  
of international banks.

1.—\$300m to the form of a  
public loan with fixed duration  
of six years.

2.—\$500m (about £100m)  
in the form of a public loan  
with a fixed duration of seven  
years.

3.—\$300m for five years at  
variable interest rate.

The remaining element is  
the private placement in April  
of \$500m in notes with a du-  
ration not exceeding four years.  
Investment bank ceiling: As  
governors of the European in-  
vestment Bank, the finance  
ministers decided to allow a  
ceiling for EIB lending to countries  
outside the Community at 800m  
units of account (about £460m).

By Clifford Webb

A strike by 700 engineers has  
stopped all work on Leyland  
new model programme  
already delayed by the com-  
pany's three-month standstill on  
capital investment.

The dispute poses an immedi-  
ate threat to a still secret ex-  
ecutive saloon—code named ST1  
—which should go into volume  
production at a new £70m fac-  
tory at Solihull, Warwickshire,  
by midsummer.

Another casualty is the next  
generation Mini. With Ford's  
Fiesta—the first Mini contender  
from an American manu-  
facturer—appearing in the autumn  
and new VW and Renault small  
cars already eating into the  
aging Mini's markets, Leyland  
has been making efforts to  
speed up its success.

The engineers' walkout fol-  
lows several weeks of restrictive  
working and results from  
attempts to integrate the in-  
dependent engineering and  
development departments which  
operated at Loughbridge,  
Coventry and Solihull before  
the Ryder reorganization.

Engineers at each of these  
centres—formerly Austin Mor-  
ris, Triumph and Rover—have  
refused to work on components  
interchanged between their  
departments. They object to the  
different pay structures which  
apply to them.

It has meant, for example,  
that gearboxes produced at  
Triumph could not be mated  
with engines from Austin  
Morris.

The company issued an ultim-  
atum to withdraw the restric-  
tions by last Thursday. On Fri-  
day three engineers at Triumph

## Hopes of spending revival dimmed by decline in retail sales

By Tim Congdon

Retail sales declined in  
February. The volume of sales  
was more than 2 per cent down  
from the January level, accord-  
ing to provisional figures re-  
leased yesterday by the Depart-  
ment of Industry.

The fall contradicts sug-  
gestions that a revival of con-  
sumer spending may be about  
to begin. It also implies that  
the high rate of personal sav-  
ings, which has been largely  
responsible for the recession,  
is continuing.

Consumer spending is being  
closely watched at present for  
signs that the relaxation of hire  
purchase restrictions by the  
Government in December may  
encourage a burst of expendi-  
ture on consumer durables.

If such expenditure did  
develop it would add to demand  
in the economy and might help  
bring the recession to an end.

The Department of Industry  
notes that the comparatively  
high level of retail sales in  
January may have been due to  
strong interest in "sales" and  
some response to the easing of  
hire purchase restrictions. The  
decline in February may be to  
some extent sustainable level.

In the three months from  
December to February the

volume of sales was 21 per cent  
above that in the previous three  
months.

The low point for retail sales  
was touched in the summer and  
autumn of last year when they  
were as much as 5 per cent  
below their peak levels of  
end-1974.

Most economic forecasts are  
that consumer spending in  
1976 will be unchanged or  
slightly lower than in 1975. In  
last forecast, the London  
Business School, one of the most  
respected of the forecasting  
institutes, predicted that consump-  
tion will be 0.2 per cent down  
this year.

Although retail sales consti-  
tute only half of consumer  
spending, they are regarded as a  
fairly reliable advance indica-  
tor of the larger total.

February's figures would be  
roughly consistent with the  
economic forecasts, because  
the decline in retail sales to be  
about 2 per cent beneath their  
average 1975 level.

However, the outlook might  
be changed by a strongly re-  
flationary Budget. At the  
moment this seems unlikely and  
a sharp rise in consumption  
seems possible only if the sav-  
ings ratio falls significantly  
from its present high level.

**ABC Bakery  
may cut 400**  
By Patricia Tisdall

Talks which will result in  
"several hundred" workers at  
the ABC Bakery in Camber-  
town, London, being made  
redundant are taking place.

Mr Peter Davies, the execu-  
tive chairman of Allied  
Bakeries, ABC's parent com-  
pany, said last night that a  
final assessment had not been  
made, but unofficial estimates  
put the figure at more than  
400.

The talks stem from a deci-  
sion to drop production of  
small hand finished cakes as  
part of a general cost-cutting  
and modernisation drive. Pro-  
duction is to be switched to  
different and more profitable  
bakery products.

Mr Davies said the group had  
no plans to close all of its 200  
ABC catering and retail bakery  
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and modernisation drive. Pro-







BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## A lacklustre look at Rugby Portland

In the building sector has been ob- as it has gradually demand in 1977 has been at least until the year by the ephasing public spending pro- Among the cement the weakest over the sh has been Rugby with little of the over- in fall back on a boosted Associated Cement during ster- ment has new been a by full year profits £10.53m to £11.3m not exactly dis- come at the lower market estimates as £12.5m.



Sir Halford Reddish, chairman of Rugby Portland, profits up, but below market estimates.

Tapscott, hopes that some way can be found to further in- crease the year's dividend per- cent, and a recommendation con- cerning any final dividend will be made on May 4 when the full preliminary statement for 1975-76 will be made. Unless the Chancellor has some cheer- ful words to say on the subject of dividend controls in his April Budget, Lesney's share- holders should not be surprised to see some form of rights issue and consequent effective dividend increase, by May.

**Final: (Unaudited)**  
1975-76 (1974-75)  
Capitalization £16.6m  
Sales £43m (£33m)  
Pre-tax profits £6m (£3.8m)  
Dividend gross 1.28p (1.18p)  
Company's estimate

**Stothert & Pitt**  
**Recovery in prospect**

It was in the second half of last year that Stothert & Pitt was hit by recession in the United Kingdom road construction programme and things have not improved in the first half of the current year. Trading margins have narrowed further, reflecting the tightly competitive terms of export work.

That said, S & P is still hopeful of achieving a "signifi- cant" improvement this year on last year's final pre-tax profit of £31,000—itsself a fall of 53 per cent on the previous year's total. Profits will be taken in the second half of this year on shipment of part of a consignment of 66 cranes for Jeddah and Dammam in Saudi Arabia. It is a fair assumption that the earnings on this contract too.

Assuming then that pre-tax profits were to come out at around £750,000 this year, that would suggest that the shares at 17½p (up 5p yesterday) are trading on a prospective dis- count of two or three points to the average p/e in the engineering sector. And the yield, even assuming no increase in the dividend, is a fairly attrac- tive 10½ per cent with adequate cover in prospect. The shares should improve a little further relative to the sector, although there will be no real excitement until the United Kingdom civil construction programme revives.

**Hoover**  
**Additional information**

Hoover's share price has come back by around 5 per cent since the initial burst of enthusiasm that greeted the preliminary figures three weeks ago. Nor is that any great surprise. Hoover was already indicating substan- tial, if temporary, lay-offs at Merthyr and the annual report now points to highly competi- tive trading in the first quarter. The key continues to lie in the

Budget and hopes of either some general stimulus to con- sumer spending or something more specific in the form of a complete or part reversal of last year's tripling of the VAT rate.

But even given one or the other (or, perhaps, a bit of both), home market demand this year must still remain some- thing of a question mark at this stage, as reflected in a p/e ratio of 6.8 and yield of 5.9 per cent with the shares at 31½p.

Meanwhile, Hoover has moved several paces forward with the presentation of its accounts. There is no full infla- tion accounting statement but the group does at least offer the guidance that on a "desk- exercise" basis last year's profits would have dropped from £19.2m pre-tax on a as historic cost basis to around £12.5m on a current cost calcu- lation.

A five-year source and appli- cation of funds table comes in too—net liquid assets last year, incidentally, doubling to nearly £21m after stock relief and lower capital investment.

Finally, there is a statement of value added, showing the total of value added as being risen by 53 per cent (£73.8m) and value added as a proportion of sales from 42 to 45 per cent.

Depending on whether Hoover sees the value added statement as being addressed to, I would have thought that further useful additions next year would be such ratios as value added per employee and so forth.

**Fitzwilson**  
**Help for the balance sheet**

Fitzwilson, Ireland's second largest industrial grouping, warned in December that it would find it difficult to make any trading profits in 1975-6 and that, after interest pay- ments of £3.4m last year, there would be a substantial net loss. With £26.7m of borrowings in the last accounts, compared to £17.2m of shareholders' funds it is not surprising that de-gearing should have been such a priority in the past few months and that the £7m raised through various disposals should be followed by some- thing more substantial.

The group is selling half its interest in the fixed assets of its fertilizer division (which has half the Irish market) to Agric Chemicals Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, part of the Williams Companies. The con- sideration is £5m, equivalent to half the book value of the fixed assets, detail of which is not yet being revealed but which will be payable on a staggered basis.

The joint company will then buy the fertilizer division's net current assets at year-end values, likely to be around £4m. Balance sheet considerations apart there is much besides to commend the deal. The fertil- izer division, the largest com- ponent of the group, has been Fitzwilson's biggest headache and is bedeviled for losses this year of well over £1m. It is essentially a processor of raw materials, particularly phos- phate rock which it gets from Morocco and which has gone up from £10 to £65 a ton recently.

When passed on, these higher prices have met formidable com- sumer resistance and Fitzwilson had to close one plant for five months and another for three, with some 300 redundancies. Agric, however, has phosphate rock resources of its own which are now price competitive with Moroccan rock, and it makes sense for both it and Fitzwilson to integrate their operations.

So, an immediate memo to all company chairmen: when you next visit your accounts department and find everyone crowded around the table with their calculators, forget any idea that they are busy weigh- ing up the merits of the next takeover. More than probably they will be playing The Dating Game or Lover's Maze.

The number of games that can be played on one's com- puting trip or coverly played in the office are, however, limited. For, though many of them require only a calculator, or calculator per player, or around half the games also need extras, usually a pack of cards or dice.

It is just over four years since the world's finance ministers came together at the Smith- sonian Institute in Washington in a last, doomed attempt to agree on a workable system of fixed exchange rates.

That part of the agreement has always been a dead letter, remembered only because it is the date chosen as a reference point to show just how far each currency has floated away from the value assigned to it then.

During the period of floating, France has kept up its tradition of running a higher inflation rate than most of its main competitors.

Under the normal rules of floating rates, that should have meant a slow but steady fall in the value of the French franc.

Instead, at close of business last week, the franc stood some 6 per cent above its Smithsonian level. That defiance of the laws of floating is what made this week's franc debacle inevitable.

France's export performance has in recent months been showing signs of increasing strain from the difficulties caused by rising French prices and an appreciating franc. The latest at close of business last week, the franc stood some 6 per cent above its Smithsonian level.

That on its own would cause problems and ought logically to lead to a downward drift of the exchange rate. But in this, at least, the French have in the past year seemed to throw logic to the winds. By tying themselves to the Deutsche mark in the European single market, the French have adopted a policy which automatically ensured that the effective rate of the franc would be pulled

up by the strength of the German currency.

So the same estimate which suggested that French prices would rise 8 per cent faster than those of France's competi- tors also came to the conclusion that the franc would appreciate in value by 3 per cent between now and mid-1977 unless the franc were to pull out from the snake.

Altogether then, France's ex- ports were expecting some- thing like a 6 per cent loss in competitiveness in the coming year. That, as the Patrons, France's equivalent of the CBI, recently pointed out would have been a highly valued franc, overseas sales, hurting both the balance of payments and the employment prospects of the country.

What makes the French par- ticularly in the snake burden to understand is that it is only two years since problems of unem- ployment and payments deficits forced the country out of the snake. After this action the effective parity of the franc drifted down sharply, until by April, 1974, it had fallen by more than 8 per cent from its Smithsonian parity.

However, far from seeking to maximize the advantages to be gained from this, the French government seems positively to have wanted to push up the rate of the franc to a much higher level and to have wanted to keep it there even after it had become clear that it was over- valued. For this rather unusual point of view there are two possible explanations.

The public explanation, given by the government, is that a strong franc is essential to the French economy because it will bring down the rate of infla- tion and because it cuts the cost of imports of raw materials and, above all, of oil.

Throughout the latter part of 1974 and in early 1975 the franc rose in value so that from being 8 per cent below its Smithsonian parity it went up to a parity 9 per cent greater than that fixed at the Washington meeting. This increase in value cut France's import bill dramatically and en- abled the trade minister at the

time, Norbert Segard, to con- vert a 14,000m franc deficit in 1974 to a 5,000m franc surplus in 1975.

In the short term, then, allow- ing the franc to bounce back up- wards paid off for France. But ever a longer period it is equally clear that the usual laws apply. In the consumer-oriented markets of the West, where price is vitally important in de- ciding purchasing, the devalua- tion of a currency will boost exports and its upward valua- tion will reduce them in value as well as volume terms. So if experts from France were to be- lieve in a highly valued franc, the leading advocate of fixed exchange rates and it has al- ways been a keen supporter of European monetary union.

Just as leaving the snake was a major defeat for France, so rejoining it clearly came to be perceived as a major triumph.

Thus, against the majority of economic advice, the franc was put back into the snake with a high parity in July last year as part of a French initiative designed to give new impetus to the EEC.

It was this decision in itself, rather than the moment of the snake as a whole since then, which seems to have been the big miscalculation. In part, the government may have been misled by the country's turn- round into surplus and in part, too, much importance may have been attached to a number of assurances which were received before rejoining the snake.

The German government pledged that the dollar would not be allowed to fall sharply against the snake currencies, and a strong revival of the American currency in the weeks before France rejoined its partners seems to have played a key role in persuading the French that the risk was worth taking. Also, France succeeded in keeping out al- together from the headlines the strongest currency in Europe, the Swiss franc, in spite of repeated attempts by Switzer- land to join in.

Now that that realignment has come, the French will be better placed to provide tough opposition in export markets. But their action is likely to have only limited repercus- sions for the United Kingdom, which has, as the National Institute for Economic and Social Research pointed out recently, sharply improved its competitiveness in price terms in the past few years.

The French have undone some of the damage which they gratuitously inflicted on their exporting industries by over- valuing the franc, but it still seems likely that there will be a certain disinclination about pushing the rate down after spending so long claiming there was no reason for it to fall. The longer they hesitate, the better that would suit France's rivals in the battle for world trade.

What this French do not seem to have expected was the extent to which their competi- tiveness would be eroded by a string of devaluations by the countries whose inflation rates tend to be faster than theirs. Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy and a whole series of Mediterranean countries have lowered the value of their currencies.

The effect of this, as the West German Federal Bank showed last week, has been dramatic. Between July and September last year, the over- all average of export prices for the United Kingdom was 47 per cent up on the average for 1972, for Germany (which had low inflation and a revaluation) it was 49 per cent, for Italy 51 per cent and for France it was 56 per cent.

Faced with figures like these, and with the fact that the central banks spent something like \$1,700m on currency support operations, it is hard to see much justification for the accusations by French employ- ers that they have been betrayed by a lack of solidarity by France's EEC partners. Such a position is hard to reconcile with their own known desire for a single currency.

President Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at a meeting in Paris: assurances were overtaken.



President Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at a meeting in Paris: assurances were overtaken.

## What price restraint?

Derek Harris

will not get very far in White- hall.

On the Whitehall side this method might also look like giv- ing away too much. Sandilands would restore profits at lower levels, on the face of it offer- ing companies more headroom under the profit margin con- trols. On the other hand Sandilands should also apply to reference levels, so the gap would in fact be that much less.

Even given a government acceptance of Sandilands, the time-scale for its introduction means that the principles could not be fully written into the code by July. But some preparatory recognition might be possible.

The best are obviously intent on sticking hard to their oppo- sition to the present code, but they have another possible approach. This would be to return to an earlier plea, rejected by government in 1973, for allowable costs in cal- culating the reference price to be based on the cost of inputs, rather than on the cost of output but on units of input.

The output formula means that any savings achieved by an enterprise's use of labour or materials, or by increasing output, must be passed on to consumers in price levels. The input formula would allow such savings to be retained as increased profits by a com- pany, although subject to profit margin controls and any other deductions still in force.

The input system would make more logical the produc- tivity deduction made in labour cost increases. With the output formula, this operates as the much-criticized "double deduc- tion". If an input system were not adopted, this productivity deduction is one part of the code badly in need of reassess- ment.

The input system would not be without its problems. It would probably favour disor- proportionately capital intensive industries with expanding mar- kets. Companies with declining volumes would need safeguard- ing.

Company methods of control- ling costs would probably need changing in many cases. Bureaucracy would thrive. If at the end of the affair it comes down merely to tinkering with the code, the invest- ment relief provisions and other safeguards would be obvious candidates for at- tention. The complications of these reliefs may explain why a large proportion of com- panies do not appear to take advantage of them.

The benefits of investment relief have so far reached £350m in a full year and it is largely a matter of guesswork what full uptake would mean—probably £500m or so, although £800m has been one figure mentioned in Whitehall.

The more tinkering there is the more complicated the legisla- tion becomes, the more the situation favours only the big companies with the resources to spare to study the fine print. It has been claimed that administering the code has cost one big company £250,000 a year.

One horror story on invest- ments disincentive that came the way of the CBI bears repeating. A company faced a £300,000 loss in profits on an investment which normally would have boosted profits by £1m through improved effi- ciency. It would have created extra jobs. But it was halted.

It is not clear whether this was an unusual case, but any more of that sort of thing would make dangerous indus- trial nonsense. Certainly the 10 per cent return to industry under the code's "historic costs" system needs reviewing.

Sir Eric Roll's Pionco for Investment Committee has already told the National Economic Development Council that there could be difficulties with investment funding in 12 to 18 months' time.

One other thing needs to be said. Sir Arthur Cockfield, chairman of the Price Commis- sion, has pointed out that, although profit margins as a percentage of reference levels have now slipped below 50 per cent as competition within recession has taken its toll, some companies are still mak- ing profits in excess of refer- ence levels or are having diffi- culty in keeping within the levels.

If there is a practical as opposed to a political argu- ment for a code to stay, this is it. However, it needs to be emphasized that only a handful of manufacturers have been in this category.

On the other hand, unless a wider ranging solution is adopted, there is a potentially urgent need to ease the code to encourage investment and to redraw it to remove disincentives and distortions. If petti- fogging niceties can also be removed by the legislators—operating on a sector, rather than on individual companies, basis could be one approach—there would also be a gain. Even, one suspects, for Sir Arthur and his diligent staff.

## Business Diary: Dropping the pilot • Calculator capers

adges of Trinity House appearing to fire a shot the bows of Trade ry Peter Shore, who as their pilotage busi-

whose Tower Hamlets, and Poplar consid- is within cannon-shot of House's Tower Hill, plans to set up a Pilotage Board. This mean that Trinity House cease to be the pilotage for London, South- and Milford Haven and so for more than 30 ports as well.

arrow Trinity House's master, Captain Sir Tibbitts and the cap- tain of the ship select Captain Miles Wil- son expected to preside the unravelling of counter- als which, according to esman whose metaphors nautical knots, will a steam out of the White sails.

business when one of the institution's directors (they are called Elder Brethren) is a certain Rt Hon J. H. Wilson. In view of his fondness for the Isles of Scilly the Prime Minister could take a certain personal interest in the second of Trinity House's activities—lighthouses. It is the light- house authority for England and Wales, Gibraltar and the Channel Islands.

It seems at least likely that tomorrow Trinity House will agree to some of the points made in the report, but will offer to do the board's work, thus saving the expense of establishing yet another bureaucracy, while at the same time enabling Trinity House to cast a grappling iron aboard other, independent pilotage authorities, such as Liver- pool.

Such a manoeuvre would be in keeping with Trinity House's instinct for survival. It was, after all, already well estab- lished when Henry VIII gave it its first charter in 1514.

**Office games**  
Fancy a game of Widgets? Mind Control? Give and Take? Travelling Salesperson or Calumazar?



"But he said the shares were going dirt cheap because of the spring sales."

cludes a collection of essays entitled *After Brockman*. So, an immediate memo to all company chairmen: when you next visit your accounts department and find everyone crowded around the table with their calculators, forget any idea that they are busy weigh- ing up the merits of the next takeover. More than probably they will be playing The Dating Game or Lover's Maze.

\* The Pocket Calculator Game Book, by Edwin Schlossberg and John Brockman, Wilton House Publications, £2.95.

**Iran bubble**

The Iran transport bubble has burst with disastrous conse- quences for many British and foreign companies and free- lance operators who hoped to make a killing on the 8,000-mile overland round trip. Iran's big industrialization programme brought large orders to British manufacturers, who could be met only by pioneering new routes via Turkey and Yugo- slavia.

The obstacles were many. Trucks were hijacked; border crossings a nightmare; a lack of fuel, spare parts and other necessities; and mysterious documentation, saw drivers run- ning out of money and patience; there was no servicing and vehicles left unattended while spares were flown out were quickly stripped bare.

But the rewards for perse- verance were large and among the most prestigious was the state- owned British Road Services. BRS Overland Limited bought 11 Marathon Specials—Leyland's biggest and newest truck—costing around £16,000 a time. Equipped with bunks, kitchens and air conditioning, they began weekly services last November. Leyland was per- suaded to invest £160,000 to establish servicing depots along the route.

Now, three months later, BRS has suspended its Iranian ser- vice. It insists that the fall in business is only a blip. There are many others in the haulage business saying, how- ever, that the two-year boom is over for good.

## Robeco

1975: A Profitable Investment Year

- \* Share price up from £141 end-1974 to £188 end-1975 (£200 at 1st Mar. '76).
- \* Assets now £4 billion, against £2.8 billion early '75.
- \* Two million new shares issued; over 23 million outstanding.
- \* Further investment in America (now 35%). Far East and Australia; European interest cut back.
- \* Final dividend proposed of 3½% in stock or £5.20 cash. Cash option, together with interim of £7.40, totals £12.60 for year (unchanged).

Copies of the Annual Report and an explanatory booklet are available from the Company—  
ROBECO, DEPT. 792, P.O. BOX 973 ROTTERDAM HOLLAND



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Firm but business falling away

With sterling presenting a firmer face and the disappointing trade figures largely forgotten, shares made a firm start to the second week of the account.

But dealers are still concerned by the stiffness of business and for the first time in the account bargains fell below 7,000. To their credit, leading shares were not unduly affected by the sharply lower opening on Wall Street—a considerable influence of late—and at the close the FT Index stood at 410.2, just 0.2 better than last Friday's level.

Glue-edged stocks rallied to partly opening losses of one quarter back to one eighth.

After a shaky start small buyers were enough to bring gains of a couple of pence to most of the "blue chips". Typical were ICI 40½p and Glaxo 37½p, both 2p ahead, with Comtrel's a point better to 15½p and Unilever unchanged at 45½p. Once again British American Tobacco, reflecting overseas and export earnings, proved to be the best going ahead 4p to 368p.

Fisons were active in their efforts to firm up the old at 36½p and the new quoted at 28p premium after 23p.

General uncertainty and adverse comment on the sector combined to bring a bad day for the banks. The way was led down by Barclays, which gave up 10p to 27½p, but Midland 27½p and National Westminster 24½p were both 8p lower and Lloyds, at 22½p, ended three points off. The new list 3p to 10p, and were active.

In a generally weaker insurance pitch Commercial Union lost 5p to 135p and were the worst, but Royal managed

A. A. Jones & Shipman, the machine tool group, report annual profits tomorrow. The shares have risen to a 1975-76 peak of 83p on thoughts that profits will be at least £13m last year against just over £1m. If so, the group would have done better than the chairman indicated in a cautionary interim bulletin.

to firm a couple of pence to 350p and insurance brokers Leslie & Godwin 12½p, Minet 11½p and Matthews Watson 19½p all traded firmly and even gained a couple of pence here and there. Elsewhere UDT were a penny easier at 28p, while Standard Chartered Bank came back 8p to 36½p. Property shares gave every sign of shaking off last week's AIP liquidation and the best were Great Portland 23½p, Berkeley Hambro 12p and Haslemere 19½p, all 4p ahead, and Sunley, up 3p to 135p.

As the day progressed gold shares went better with the

metal price. Among the best gains were East Driefontein 50p to £7.62, General Mining 75p to £18.75 and St. Helena £1.75 to £19.50. Australians were good from with MIM up 8p to 24½p and Bako Wallend 5p to 54½p, but Lonrho came back 3p to 11½p in line with the general trend.

Oils were dull and the majors like Shell 6p to 416p and BP 5p to 60½p ahead of results, gave ground. The rights issue continued to unsettle Ultramar, where the decline was of 7½p to 162½p.

Isolated firm spots saw Weyburn Engineering go ahead another 20p to 640p, Letraset 5p to the good at 79p, Peter Brotherhood ahead by 4p to 88p, British Vita better by 8p to 94p and Adams Food by 5p to 32p, the last two on favourable week-end comment. In shipbuilding, Rescon Smith "A" continued to be troubled by drilling rig problems and ended 20p down to 17½p while news of an impending law suit did nothing for John James which closed 3p weaker at 26p.

United Scientific, with its good export order book, continued to be supported at 12½p, up 4p, while there was also interest in Albright & Wilson, considered to be more inflation-proof than most and which gained 2p to 100p.

In stores, House of Fraser 8½p is thought to be the next group to follow Debenhams 95p in benefiting from cost cutting. Both ended on a firmer than average note for the sector.

Among companies reporting results, Stanwood Radio were greatly upset by the forecast of a big trading loss, and slumped 14p to 10p after touching 4p at one point. The market was also disappointed by Rugby Cement, off 2p to 76p, but both AP Cement and Tunnel stayed firm at 194p. Cope Allmann rose 2½p to 44p after a forecast of a second-half recovery while another forecast, from Lesney, was enough to boost the price 4p to 35p. Mettrey 31p traded firmly in sympathy. Results also helped Bronx Engineering and back in mines, this and coppers also made headway.

Since the year-end and the company has recovered about

The weakest of the electrical shares was Thorn where the shares gave up 6p to 268p, while in building Haveringham were 5p lower at 32p. Foods had a soft spot in British Sugar where this drop was 5p to 360p.

In after-hours trading the lower trend on Wall Street started to have a more pronounced effect. In particular the oils were among the worst affected with BP, Barmah and

Speculators are now watching Fairbairn Lawson closely. The shares are 30p, the price at which the United States group AITech Industries of Connecticut bought 15 per cent of the company through its European offshoot last week. Market men notice the infusion of management and expect this to be followed at some stage by an injection of money. AITech disclaims bid intentions, but the impression is that Fairbairn will be used as a vehicle.

Shell going lower by 3p to 6p. Gold shares and mining finance houses firmed even more, while in gilts "mediums" and "longs" improved an eighth, thus erasing all of the day's falls.

Earlier, gilts had a drab and uninspiring session. Although they ended up mostly unchanged from prices at the finish of trading on Friday, they were quoted beneath these levels for much of the time and were occasionally still 1 point off on the day from Friday's close.

"Shorts" were able to recover early losses of 1 point in quiet trading. "Longs" saw very little business. The coupon rate on the "yearling" issue today is expected to be 10½ per cent.

Equity turnover on March 12 was £63.55m (18,362 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were ICI, Fisons new, Shell, Lucas, Lloyds Bank new, Standard Chartered new, De Beers, Barmah, Distillers, Marks & Spencer, Inter European Property, EMI, British American Tobacco and British Vita.

Share deals

E. E. Jeavons says that Midland Yorkshire has sold its 678,310 shares in the company to the parent company, Croda International. Croda has subsequently purchased another 5,000 shares and now holds 683,310 shares. London and Lombard Investment Trust reports that the Standard Life Assurance now holds 1,900,346 ordinary shares of the company (10.05 per cent).

Assam Consolidated Tea Estates says that Yule Catto has sold £500, 6 per cent preference stock of the company and now holds £105,799, 6 per cent cum preference stock, together with 380,700 ordinary shares. Hart, Morris has sold 5,000 Morgan Grampian at 85p, on behalf of an associate. Mr. B. W. Tawse is now interested in 350,000 ordinary shares (10.18 per cent) of Reed & Malkin.

Share deals

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## Stanwood shares slump on loss warning

Down went the shares in Stanwood Radio from 24p to 9p after hitting 4p on a warning by the board that the group made a trading loss of around £300,000 last year.

The full results will not be available for about two weeks, but the loss, which will compare with a loss of £22,000 the year before, is struck after depreciation of about £1.5m.

The group, in which Electronic Rentals has a large stake, has evidently been caught by the slump in colour television sales and rentals.

The management is to be strengthened by the appointment of Mr. John Spindlow, chairman of the building and lighting company John M. Newton, to the board.

The directors have been depreciating colour equipment over a longer period.

Bronx again at peak

Going well at half time, Bronx Engineering Holdings ended the year to end-November with peak profits for the sixth year running.

On a turnover up from £6.75m to £8.51m, pre-tax profits advanced 30 per cent to £577,000. Earnings a share moved from 6.6p to 8.8p. The total payout rises from 3.5p to 3.9p.

Further losses from John Stephen

Fashion pioneer John Stephen of London is going through a bad patch. In the year to August 31, losses before tax rose from £152,000 to £222,000 and sales fell from £1.9m to £1.4m. The net loss rose from £133,000 to £520,000.

Since the year-end and the company has recovered about

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£200,000 from the sale of "unprofitable" units. Another £50,000 is due when various other sales are completed. During the year the company revealed its properties and the surplus of £263,000 was transferred to reserves.

Redeeming losses from the acquisition of the Gary Elliott group, the board has written off £260,000 worth of goodwill. This is included in an extraordinary debit of £360,000, against £58,000.

Sangamo slows but tops £1m

Sangamo Weston, the electric motor and apparatus group, doubled profits in the six months to last June but it indicated last October that profits in the full year to December 31 would by no means grow as fast.

Even so a 48 per cent increase is responsible. But pre-tax profits finished at £1.08m—the first time firm was beaten. Turnover for the year advanced from £8.86m to £9.57m. The dividend is 9.7p gross against 9.6p.

By the end of the first half year the level of orders, particularly for time switches and industrial instruments, had deteriorated. This in turn pointed to lower profits in the closing months.

W of England higher

Having seen its profits for the six months to December 31 rise from £216,000 to a record £349,000 before tax, The West of England Trust is looking for a substantial increase in profits over the £551,000 brought in last year.

Mr. Ernest Harbottle, the chairman, takes this view after considering the improvement in

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both the financial and other sectors of the business. Earnings a share are up from 0.74p to 1.12p while the dividend is raised from 0.74p to 0.85p gross.

Thomas Nationwide

Overseas diversification has helped Thomas Nationwide Transport. Pre-tax profits went up from \$45.8m to \$46.7m in the half year to end December. Sales were \$166.5m against \$156.1m. But the dividend is 4c a share again.

Mercantile Credits

Mercantile Credits is offering \$400,000 debentures from March 15. Terms and rates are as follows—at call after three months 9½ per cent, one year 11 per cent, 18 months 11½ per cent, two years 12½ per cent, three years 13½ per cent, four years 14½ per cent, five years 15½ per cent, all at par. The company said the issue will provide additional funds to finance demand for the group's services.

Lambert & Howarth clobbered by tax

The pre-tax profits of shoe and slipper maker Lambert & Howarth Group went up a bit last year but net profits fell sharply after heavier tax. On a turnover up from £10.5m to £11.8m pre-tax profits rose from £503,000 to £511,000. But after tax up from £168,000 to £238,000, net profits diverged £61,000 to £274,000. Earnings a share fell from 10.9p to 8.9p. The total dividend is 4.02p gross against 3.73p.

Foreign and Colonial

The consolidated assets less current liabilities of the Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust increased from £79.7m to £132.2m in 1975.

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Consolidated net assets per share increased by 80 per cent, from 93p to 167p. Since the year-end, the trust has taken up new stocks issued by London and Scottish Marine Oil and Scottish Canadian Oil and Transportation. The total cost of supporting this North Sea investment will amount to £15m.

Mediterranean rights

Club Mediterranean, the holiday resort group, is to seek approval to lift its capital from 53.4m to 62.3m francs through a one-for-six rights issue. The new shares would be eligible for dividend payments since last November 1, when its financial year began—APDJ.

Ultramar's rights

Ultramar, the London-registered oil group operating largely in North America, advises shareholders in the document on its proposed £15.3m rights issue that this year "it may be difficult to achieve the record profits of 1975".

The 15.3m 7 per cent convertible redeemable preference shares of £1 each which Ultramar is issuing at par by way of rights in the ratio of 9 for every 20 ordinary shares held will be convertible into ordinary stock in the ratio of 10 for every 19 preference shares. These terms are equivalent to a conversion price of 190p against a present stock market price of 162½p. Meanwhile the 7 per cent net coupon on the convertible preference shares offers a gross yield of 10.77 per cent to United Kingdom resident taxpayers, including the associated tax credit.

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## B

C. H. JONES

Turnover £2.5m (£2.6m) 1975, 1976 (£2.3m) 1977 (£2.3m) 1978 (£2.3m) 1979 (£2.3m) 1980 (£2.3m) 1981 (£2.3m) 1982 (£2.3m) 1983 (£2.3m) 1984 (£2.3m) 1985 (£2.3m) 1986 (£2.3m) 1987 (£2.3m) 1988 (£2.3m) 1989 (£2.3m) 1990 (£2.3m) 1991 (£2.3m) 1992 (£2.3m) 1993 (£2.3m) 1994 (£2.3m) 1995 (£2.3m) 1996 (£2.3m) 1997 (£2.3m) 1998 (£2.3m) 1999 (£2.3m) 2000 (£2.3m) 2001 (£2.3m) 2002 (£2.3m) 2003 (£2.3m) 2004 (£2.3m) 2005 (£2.3m) 2006 (£2.3m) 2007 (£2.3m) 2008 (£2.3m) 2009 (£2.3m) 2010 (£2.3m) 2011 (£2.3m) 2012 (£2.3m) 2013 (£2.3m) 2014 (£2.3m) 2015 (£2.3m) 2016 (£2.3m) 2017 (£2.3m) 2018 (£2.3m) 2019 (£2.3m) 2020 (£2.3m) 2021 (£2.3m) 2022 (£2.3m) 2023 (£2.3m) 2024 (£2.3m) 2025 (£2.3m) 2026 (£2.3m) 2027 (£2.3m) 2028 (£2.3m) 2029 (£2.3m) 2030 (£2.3m) 2031 (£2.3m) 2032 (£2.3m) 2033 (£2.3m) 2034 (£2.3m) 2035 (£2.3m) 2036 (£2.3m) 2037 (£2.3m) 2038 (£2.3m) 2039 (£2.3m) 2040 (£2.3m) 2







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